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Great Britain.

LONDON, DEC. 31—JAN. 1, 1883.

THE REVENUE RETURNS.

The improvement in the revenue for 1882-3, as compared with the preceding year, has been maintained in the December quarter, though not to anything like the same extent as during the first six months. The revenue returns show a net increase for the quarter ended on December 31, 1882, of £78,588. For the previous six months the increase was £143,988. The quarter thus compares very unfavourably with the earlier part of the financial year, although showing a slight improvement as compared with the corresponding period of 1881-2. Customs show an increase of £110,000, which is balanced by a slightly larger decrease in Stamps, House Duty has increased £5,000, and Land Tax has fallen off by precisely the same amount. Property and Income Tax has yielded an increase of £197,000, the Post Office of £90,000, and the Telegraph Service of £30,000; but, on the other hand, Excise has fallen off £5,000, Miscellaneous Receipts £175,933, and Interest on advances £5,631. The last item must be expected to decrease, as considerable repayments have been made to the Treasury. Miscellaneous Receipts are always uncertain, but the great falling off for the quarter, which leaves a deficit of £93,142, is somewhat remarkable. In any case, the increase for the nine months is consolatory, inasmuch as Mr. Gladstone anticipated a falling off of nearly a quarter of a million, after making full allowance for the £875,000 transferred to Miscellaneous Receipts on account of the stamps. Customs were taken in the Estimates practically at the amount they yielded in 1881-2, and for the first half of the financial year it seemed as if the caution thus displayed would be justified. The large increase during the last quarter has, however, brought up the surplus for the nine months to £171,000. Regard being had for the increase of population, this cannot be taken to show that we are doing more than hold our ground. Mr. Gladstone did not venture to assume any elasticity in the Excise; on the contrary, he placed his estimate somewhat below the receipts for the previous year. In point of fact, the decrease for the nine months almost balances the improvement in the Customs, amounting, as it does, to £132,000. It is an interesting but difficult question how far this reduction is due to a genuine and permanent improvement in the social habits of the people. Mr. Gladstone has, perhaps, abandoned by this time his theory of the beneficial influences of coffee-house, to which he never obtained many adherents. It is more probable that we are experiencing the fruits of the exceedingly vigorous efforts of the various societies devoted to the inculcation of temperance. Something is no doubt, due to the moderate prosperity of the past year. Though there has been less success with there we frequently have to contend with, there has been no balance. Violent fluctuations do no good, but often a great deal of mischief, while steady growth in prosperity encourages hope without diminishing caution. The Post Office has already yielded slightly more than the estimated surplus for the whole year, which was £250,000. The Telegraph Service has been yet more bountiful. Mr. Gladstone put the increase at £20,000, and it already amounts to £60,000. It is rather curious, however, that half this sum appears to have been gained during the December quarter, while in the same period the Post Office gained considerably more than half its total surplus for nine months. These departments are not liable to be disturbed by large occasional transactions, so that it would almost seem as if some peculiarity of accounting were to blame for the sudden leap in their revenues. Property and Income Tax, which had shown a diminution of £260,000 for the first six months of the financial year, yielded an increase of £197,000 for the last quarter. The decrease for the nine months is thus reduced to £63,000. The additional tax imposed to meet the expenses of the Egyptian war, no doubt, explains the sudden improvement. The collection for the March quarter will, however, include the main payment of the high income tax now leviable, and will, consequently, be a very heavy one. It is worth noting that but for the influence of the additional income tax the December quarter would have shown a very heavy decrease. The normal reduction in the yield of the income tax may probably be put at £100,000; indeed, it could hardly have been less, unless Mr. Gladstone's Budget calculation of a loss for the year of £545,000 was altogether erroneous. Adding this to the actual increase, we get a sum of £300,000, which

falls to be deducted from the revenue of the December quarter before comparing it with the previous year on the Budget basis of existing taxation. This deduction would bring the revenue more than two hundred thousand below the returns for the corresponding quarter, and would reduce the increase for the whole nine months to about the same amount. That is not a particularly encouraging state of affairs with which to enter upon a new year. There does not appear, however, to be any cause for serious apprehension. Our exports and imports are very large, large, in fact, than in any previous year, and the harvest was not ungenerally good, though it was hardly acknowledged by men smarting from a succession of ruinously bad seasons. Trade, on the whole, seems sound; and the people at large fairly prosperous.—Times.

SIR CHARLES DILKE AND COUNTY FRANCHISE.

Sir Charles Dilke touched on Saturday the exhausted subject of the county franchise and discussed at some length on the thorny question of redistributing seats. It is impossible for the most copious and ingenious controversialist to find a new argument either for or against the present arduous inequality in the rural and urban electorates. Even in the last Parliament the debates on Mr. Trevelyan's annual motion were thoroughly unrelaxing. Mr. Trevelyan stated his case with ease and lucidity, and then, after a few platitudes about the danger of innovation from some occupant of the Treasury bench, the House of Commons rejected the motion. Very little is now urged against it from any quarter. Sometimes one of those curious politicians who seem to live in another world, whence they transmit contributions to a weekly contemporary, describes the proposal to give agricultural labourers votes as a "reckless and dangerous experiment." But it is difficult to believe that even he does not know he is talking nonsense. Sir Charles Dilke, instead of discussing a question on which the public has put a moral closure, more usefully called attention to some glaring irregularities in the present distribution of voting power. These are indeed sufficiently notorious. But the temptation is strong to pass them by on the ground that they do little practical harm, or that no human institution is perfect. Yet the former proposition is as disputable as the latter is irrelevant. It is more than doubtful, for instance, whether Lord Beaconsfield could ever have commanded a majority in the House of Commons if the large constituencies had had their fair share in the representation. The distinction between town and country is sometimes, as Sir Charles Dilke showed, drawn in a manner which can only be called absurd. Battersea, for example, is a county, and East Retford, an agricultural constituency whose name must haunt all readers of Lord Ellenborough's Diary, is a town. This of course shows that it is not only agricultural labourers who under the present system are excluded from the franchise, but also miners and other dwellers in what are practically towns. The corruption of which Sir Charles Dilke said that foreign journals spoke so contemptuously, and for which the penalties provided by the Attorney-General's Bill are no doubt most urgently required, would dwindle and decay if seats were properly distributed. There is no bribery in Liverpool, or Manchester, or Leeds, or in the great county constituencies. In nine cases out of ten a corrupt constituency is an over-represented one, and this is an argument for a new Reform Bill additional to those which Sir Charles Dilke so ably urged on Saturday.—Daily News.

THE OLD YEAR.

The historian of the political and social events of the last year will find himself embarrassed by no perplexing dispute for priority between the two branches of his priority. There have been years in which the minor—if, indeed, it be the minor—category has trust the more important one aside—years in which the incidents of our social life have asserted a stronger claim upon our attention and remembrance than the various phases of our politics, whether in home or foreign affairs. Such, however, is far from being the case here. The political drama has been full of movement, and situation surprise. An almost unbroken tameness has reigned over the social scene. In Ireland, events have followed one upon another with startling and tragic shock, and in more than one instance months of the year had shown little or no improvement in the condition of the country, it became known during the Easter recess that the Government has resolved upon a reversal of their policy of the previous year; that the Coercion Act was not to be renewed; that the Land Act was to be amended; and that the suspects were to be immediately released. Then followed the incidents of Mr. Forster's resignation, the Parliamentary disclosure of the arrangement or understanding, since styled "The Kilmainham Treaty," the barbarous assassination of Lord Frederick Cavendish, and, finally, that sharp revulsion of political feeling in England which resulted in the passing of the Crimes Act. The Government, however, did not altogether abandon their earlier programme of concession; and an Amnesties Act, to facilitate by State aid the liquidation of arrears of rent in Ireland was duly added to the statute book. The beneficial results of the latter enactment have not up to the present been very marked; but the criminal law has been administered in Ireland with greatly increased vigour since the passing of the Crimes Act, and with signal effect. Agrarian outrage has not, indeed, been entirely stamped out; but the power of terrorism has been very greatly reduced. Denunciations, punished in one instance with much criticised severity, are no longer likely to affect the minds of juries, who have shown themselves capable of resisting intimidation in a far more formidable shape. Despite the truculent threats of the secret societies, verdicts of guilty have been fearlessly returned in the worst of cases of agrarian murder. The organisations of Irish crime already seem to feel that their power is departing; and there is reasonable ground for hoping that such incidents as the attempt on the lives of Mr. Justice Lawson and of Mr. Field, the juror, and the daring attacks upon the Dublin detectives, may represent only the expiring struggles of the conspiracy. Again, however, the affairs of Ireland have occupied almost the whole attention of the Imperial

Parliament. Except for a few useful Consolidation Acts, the record of English and Scotch legislation has been nearly blank. The House of Commons, however, has been prevailed upon to carry out a work of more lasting importance, perhaps, than any legislative measures, in the reconstruction of the machinery by which our laws are made. Pursuant to the intentions announced at an earlier period of the Session, Mr. Gladstone introduced his scheme of reformed Parliamentary procedure at the resumption of the adjourned Session of Parliament in October; and in spite of the opposition which had been anticipated to the First Rule establishing the power of the closure, the Ministerial plan was accepted by the House with unexpected docility, and in an almost unmodified form. The increased command of Ministers over the House of Commons was, indeed, most conspicuous, and their discomfited opponents were not slow to attribute the invigorated Parliamentary influence of the Ministry to the success and popularity of their action in Egypt. For in the Nile and the policy of the political drama has been as stirring and striking as in Ireland; but with this difference that there it has been no chequered tale of defeat and rally, but in its later scenes at any rate an unbroken, or almost unbroken, story of success. The earlier indecision of the Government had, indeed, to bear its fruit of disaster before they were fully aroused to a sense of the true proportions of the emergency. The deliberations of the Constantinople Conference were, however, rudely broken in upon by the massacres at Alexandria, and the menacing preparations of the Egyptian Army under the command of Arabi made it clear enough that the difficulty would not be settled by their alone. The Government were at last awakened to a full sense of the dangers which a military insurrection threatened our interests in Egypt, and the course adopted by the Ministry, from the bombardment of Alexandria onward, was pursued with satisfactory firmness, and attended by uniform good fortune. Compelled to intervene in Egypt by the exigencies of our Imperial position, they were compelled also by obligations bequeathed to them from their predecessors to invite other Powers to share in the work. The timidity of the French Government and Assembly set them free from an embarrassing alliance; the hesitations of the Porte, and the skilful diplomacy of Lord Dufferin, relieved them of a dangerous coadjutor; and nothing remained but that they should succeed in performing quickly and effectually the work which they were thus enabled to perform alone. Thanks to the weakness of our enemy, success was certain; thanks to the skill of our general, and the courage of our troops, it was also rapid and easy. The resistance of Arabi's army was broken down with unexpected promptitude, the Khedive was restored to his capital within a few weeks of his enforced departure, and pending the settlement of its future status, we remain in complete military possession of the country. Among the social events of the year, the chief in point of general interest is easily specified. For one person in this country whose attention is arrested by incidents practically affecting the national well-being, there are thousands who dwell with delight upon a certain class of occurrences with which they have no personal connection. If we were asked to name the event which interests the largest number of people in these islands we should say without hesitation that it is a Royal wedding; and the marriage of the Duke of Albany to Princess Helen of Waldeck has been no exception to the well-established rule. Nor has 1882 been wanting in another incident which appealed strongly to the loyalty of the British people. Her Majesty's escape in the early spring from the pistol bullet of the half-witted Maclean added naturally to the warmth of the welcome which awaited her at the opening of Epping Forest, her first public appearance for many a long year among her people.

It is not only the pleasant remembrance as having witnessed this completion of the public-spirited efforts to which the people of London owe the preservation of the last fragment of that green girdle with which their great city was in old days encircled. But 1882 will live in the graver records of the historian as the year in which Westminster Hall, for upwards of six centuries the chief abode of English justice, resigned her place to that more spacious and commodious structure in which, for the first time, it will be possible to gather all the various chief centres of legal jurisdiction under a common roof. So important a change as this will ensure the year 1882 against complete oblivion; but in other respects it has, in its social aspect, been a most uneventful year. No remarkable good fortune and no startling calamity have marked its even course. Its harvest has been fair, but not abundant; its weather has been respectable, but far from brilliant. Disease has nowhere wrought exceptional mortality, and the railway companies have taken somewhat less, perhaps, than their usual toll of life. But fire has been active in the work of destruction during the closing weeks of 1882, and even during the last few days the terrible catastrophe at Bradford has occurred to swell the tale of deaths by accident, and to sadden the departure of a young man. Its obituary record, too, is full, and regret to recall, of celebrated names; and a year which has witnessed the disappearance of Charles Darwin from the ranks of science, of Tait and Pusey from the ranks of the Church, and of Longfellow, Rossetti, and Trollope from those of literature, has certainly levied tributes from us with no too sparing hand.—Observer.

DEATH FROM AN OVERDOSE OF CHLORAL.—An inquest has been held on Friday at Ryde on the body of Lady Katherine Petre, widow of the Honourable Arthur Petre, and daughter of the late Lord Wicklow. The deceased lady died on Wednesday evening in her usual health, and next morning she was found dead in bed. By her side was a bottle of chloral, and from which no fewer than sixteen teaspoonfuls had been taken in two days. A surgeon said he thought the deceased had died from heart disease while under the influence of chloral. People, he said, began with small doses, and practice of taking chloral to induce sleep weakened the heart. The coroner said he would order a post-mortem examination if the jury wished it, but he thought it unnecessary. It was, in his opinion, clear that the deceased took the chloral inadvertently. The jury returned a verdict to that effect.

LITERATURE IN 1882.

During the past year history and biography are the departments of letters in which temporary authorship has been most prolific, and in the case of the latter the year ends as it began, with an incident which almost attains the dimensions of a scandal. The had not passed away when a new shock was given to the public by the two volumes of Mr. Froide's Biography, or, as he modestly called it, of "Materials for a Biography"; and the extent, produced by the publication of the Memoirs of the Memoirs of Bishop Wilberforce. The impression conveyed by Mr. Froide's Biography confirmed that created by the "Reminiscences," and the two together amounted to a revelation. Carlyle, whom the world had pictured as superior to all the faults of his qualities, but who startled the world in the published biography is the character, selfish, morose, and uncharitable. Very different is the verdict which a perusal of the last volume of his life will lead any one to pass upon Samuel Wilberforce. None of those who knew him personally or by reputation supposed that he was without the defects of his qualities. But what startled the world in the published biography is the exercise of the judgment and reserve which are the marks of a great man. Several other biographies have been published during the past year which are free from any blemishes of this sort. The lives of Professor Clark Maxwell, of Lord Keith, better known as Admiral Elphinstone, of Erskine, and of Lord Dufferin, are valuable contributions to the national history of the century, are not wanting in personal interest, and are entirely harmless in their social disclosures. Two autobiographical works have also recently appeared, which are as unexceptionable in their tone as they are varied in their content. The "Reminiscences" of Sir Archibald Alison and the "Records of Later Life" by Fanny Mozley present us with a series of singularly vivid portraits, and with the most full and exact account which we have yet received of the Oxford movement; but they are not devoid of inaccuracies which detract from their historical value. The "Notes of a Visit to Russia, 1840-41," by the late Mr. William Palmer, is a book which may be classed in the same category, and which covers a portion of the same field. Mr. Palmer was one of Cardinal Newman's oldest and most intimate friends, and he has discharged his duty of editor with taste and judgment as well as with affection.

Historical literature has been enriched by more than one work that will probably live. The method on which history is now written, due to a graphic simplicity, a terseness, and a strength that show the knowledge of the historian to the utmost advantage; few better pieces of prose have been lately produced than the passage in which the author, a disciple of Mr. Freeman, has written of "William the Red." The "History of England," by Mr. Freeman, is a work which has been long and justly praised, and in his "Making of England" he has displayed all the thoroughness and scientific exactness of his master, with much greater brilliancy of style. The "History of England," by Mr. Freeman, is a work which has been long and justly praised, and in his "Making of England" he has displayed all the thoroughness and scientific exactness of his master, with much greater brilliancy of style. The "History of England," by Mr. Freeman, is a work which has been long and justly praised, and in his "Making of England" he has displayed all the thoroughness and scientific exactness of his master, with much greater brilliancy of style.

The following is the latest information received from the scene of the terrible disaster at Bradford:— Bradford, Sunday Night. Last night's late work at the works of the Bradford Railway Company has been the disaster of Thursday last. With the close of Friday night's operations little impression had been made upon the huge masses of masonry and general wreckage. Yesterday, last night, and to-day, however, the great removal of the immense blocks of stone of which the coping of the chimney was formed, and it soon became clear that the upper part of the shaft in its descent fell, apparently in a solid mass, upon the north end of the chimney, and the coping which formed a monumental rim to the chimney, and weighed no less than ninety tons, was found all at one point, and so lying as to indicate that it was fractured by the contact with the building. This rim was composed of Ashlar and local stone, and now that the real history of the chimney is being revealed it is stated that this huge "ornament" was placed on the shaft against the expressed wish of the architect. The men found themselves unable to clear the blocks away to-day, and in order to facilitate their work they rolled them into the basement of the destroyed mill with a view to erecting a crane equal to the task. The sight presented yesterday afternoon and evening by each of the seven bodies that came to view was sickening. The bodies, more especially about the head, were unrecognised and disfigured beyond all recognition, and identification of some of them has not yet been established; while in the case of four of those who claimed them could only speak as to the clothing. About nine o'clock last night three females were on duty, a few feet of each other, and in close proximity were their breakfast cans and some food. Although the work was again continued with the aid of the electric light, and although three gangs of 130 men each were engaged in turns, and over fifty carts were in use, no further discovery was made between eleven o'clock and noon to-day. About one o'clock, however, portions of a massive wrought-iron beam that had been shattered were being removed, when first a hand and then a man's head was seen, and it was concluded that the poor fellow after he fell must have been struck on the neck and the head severed. Yesterday a letter to the following effect was received from Sir Edward Ripley, who only came into the property of his father a few weeks ago, and is now staying at Bodstone Court, Salop:—"I should like to say, though you know it I should like to say, how sad I am at this terrible disaster. I really do sympathise from my heart with all the mourners, and I hope you will tell this to any of the bereaved ones you come across. I need not say how I grieve for all the lives lost, and all the men, women, and children injured. My sorrow is

THE STATE OF IRELAND.

Mr. Wm. O'Brien has summoned two hundred and thirty-six witnesses for his defence in the case to be heard against him at the suit of the Attorney-General, on whose behalf an application will be made to have the editor of *United Ireland* returned for trial for having, in his paper of 23d December, published a false, malicious, and seditious libel, calculated to bring the Government into hatred and contempt, and to stir up feelings of disaffection and discontent. Amongst the witnesses summoned are Mr. Jenkins, Head of the Criminal Investigation Department; Mr. Mallon, Chief Superintendent of the Detective Force; Mr. Bolton and Mr. Morphy, Crown solicitors; nearly all the Special Jurors who were engaged in the Louisa Mary murder case; and a number of reporters who were present at the trial.

The Lord Lieutenant and Countess Spencer, Mrs. Trevelyan, and suite went on Sunday to Christchurch Cathedral. The Vicar occupied the ancient state seat of the Lord Lieutenant in the cathedral, which has been recently restored at the expense of Mr. Henry Roe. A letter by who Miss Lord Spencer was given into custody.

At the Dublin Southern Police-court on Saturday, Charles King, of Portobello, harbour, aged 17 years, described as a clerk, was charged with having maliciously written and sent a threatening letter to murder Mr. James Talbot, Superintendent of the Dockyard, Portobello. The prisoner was not known to Mr. Talbot, but was engaged as clerk under Mr. Peter O'Farrell, another of the superintendents in the service of the Grand Canal Company. The letter, which was delivered by post to Mr. Talbot on the 19th inst., contained a threat that he would be murdered on the 23d inst., and was signed "Inspector General of the Police."

A book kept in Mr. O'Farrell's office by the accused was given in evidence with a view of showing that the handwriting in it corresponded with that of the letter. The accused, who said that the whole matter was a joke, was sent for trial to the Commission without bail.

National League meeting was held at Bray, County Wicklow, on Sunday afternoon. The chair was occupied by Mr. Corbett, M.P. Letters of apology were read from Messrs. Parnell, M.P., Davitt, M.P., and M.P. The Chairman said no one need be afraid to join the National League, for the Chief Secretary admitted it was a legal organisation. The whole programme of the League might be summed up in the words "Home Rule."

Mr. Lalor, M.P., said he was glad to observe that the assembly was mainly composed of fighting men, for he always liked to be surrounded by such. In their midst he had an enemy who had taken possession of their lands seven hundred years ago; but let them depend upon it the rising generation would not use that sort of force which was freedom was obliged to have recourse to (applause). He could not believe that the force by which every other nation gained its liberty was an immoral force, and that a man who, during seven hundred years, had been a foreigner, they would be freemen, and that at a not distant date. Of what was passing through the minds of the youth of Ireland, he knew a great deal, and he was certain to know that the day might come when they would not use that sort of force which was freedom was obliged to have recourse to (applause). He could not believe that the force by which every other nation gained its liberty was an immoral force, and that a man who, during seven hundred years, had been a foreigner, they would be freemen, and that at a not distant date. Of what was passing through the minds of the youth of Ireland, he knew a great deal, and he was certain to know that the day might come when they would not use that sort of force which was freedom was obliged to have recourse to (applause).

THE BRADFORD CATASTROPHE.

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most deep for the poor sufferers." This afternoon a telegram was received by Mr. F. Haley, agent to the Ripley family, inquiring as to the progress of the injured, and adding:—"Try when you can to say a word on my behalf to any who are suffering. Tell them how much we feel and sympathise with them. Beyond these expressions of sympathy, however, several members of the Ripley family have displayed much anxiety in the operations of those who are clearing away the wreckage, Mr. H. Ripley taking charge of the night gang. The police also have earned for themselves a good deal of favour for the manner in which they laboured since Thursday, more especially the Chief Constable, Superintendent Campbell, Superintendent Laycock, and Inspector Dobson. It was originally proposed to give the victims a public funeral, but the matter was not taken up, and all that appears to have been done is that the Ripley family have undertaken to defray the cost of the coffins. In several instances the remains were shapless masses, and have had to be lifted into coffins as they were found, clothes and all. A voluntary subscription for the purchase of shrouds was not taken up, and in a few instances the remains were shrouded in shrouds. This afternoon the jury visited the ruins for the purpose of viewing those bodies that had been identified yesterday and noon to-day. Only five of the additional bodies recovered had been identified up to three o'clock, and having seen the remains returned to the Town Hall, where, for the first time in the annals of the town, the inquest was proceeding while the bells rang out in all directions summoning worshippers to Sunday evening service. As the police were making diligent inquiries as to the whereabouts of the bodies already brought to light, the jury agreed to adjourn again until to-morrow afternoon. The chief constable pointed out the absolute necessity of concluding the identification inquiry as soon as possible after the recovery of the bodies, and he was supported by several of the victims got out during Saturday night and to-day were already in a shocking state. The announcement that a Government engineer is to be sent down to inquire into the state of the chimney, and who had just left the premises, has been hailed with joy by the people, and it is likely before long several of the victims got out during Saturday night and to-day were already in a shocking state. The announcement that a Government engineer is to be sent down to inquire into the state of the chimney, and who had just left the premises, has been hailed with joy by the people, and it is likely before long several of the victims got out during Saturday night and to-day were already in a shocking state.

The result of the labours of those engaged in the work of removing the ruined mills and chimney between last evening and this hour has been the recovery of eight mangled and disfigured bodies. Four of these have been identified, but of the remaining four there is no definite identification. In addition to these other bodies, there are still nine persons to be accounted for. These, with the numbers previously mentioned, bring up the total deaths to 56. Four of these were the morning of the disaster, and the condition of the injured lying at the infirmary pointing to an early collapse in at least three cases. With one or two marked exceptions, the injured lying at their respective homes are progressing favourably. Four of the victims were interred to-day.

DRAMATIC NOTES.

(FROM THE "OBSERVER.")
The Yellow Dwarf, a spectacular extravaganza with which it had been intended to open the Grand Theatre in Leicester-square, was produced at Her Majesty's on Saturday night, in consequence of the new house not being finished so soon as had been expected. Inasmuch, however, as the new piece is no more ready than the new theatre, it might as well have been postponed. To set such a work as *The Yellow Dwarf* before the public without adequate rehearsal, with redundancies here, with hitches there, and finally with a complete break-down of scenic arrangement, is to deprive it of its whole raison d'être. It is a considerable amount of artistic taste have been expended upon the extravaganza, and that, as is usual in such productions, the ballet is a good deal better than the book. The rivalry of the dwarfish characters in the play, but of the remaining four there is no definite identification. In addition to these other bodies, there are still nine persons to be accounted for. These, with the numbers previously mentioned, bring up the total deaths to 56. Four of these were the morning of the disaster, and the condition of the injured lying at the infirmary pointing to an early collapse in at least three cases. With one or two marked exceptions, the injured lying at their respective homes are progressing favourably. Four of the victims were interred to-day.

Pantomime is this year exhibited at Drury Lane on a very large scale indeed. Some of the scenic and spectacular effects introduced into *Sinbad the Sailor* surpasses in ambition anything which has hitherto been attempted in our Christmas pieces. Old Drury, therefore, fully keeps up its reputation for the provision of a pantomime which in some important respects shall be practically beyond rivalry. The scenic and spectacular effects introduced into *Sinbad the Sailor* surpasses in ambition anything which has hitherto been attempted in our Christmas pieces. Old Drury, therefore, fully keeps up its reputation for the provision of a pantomime which in some important respects shall be practically beyond rivalry. The scenic and spectacular effects introduced into *Sinbad the Sailor* surpasses in ambition anything which has hitherto been attempted in our Christmas pieces. Old Drury, therefore, fully keeps up its reputation for the provision of a pantomime which in some important respects shall be practically beyond rivalry.

The Holborn Amphitheatre has been reopened as the Alcazar by Mr. John Baum, a manager who should understand as well as any how to gain the ear of the public for such light entertainments as are promised at the

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PARIS: PRICE 40 CENTIMES
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about a quarter of an hour the fire fell in with a great crash, and the firemen, who had increased in number to 25, were obliged to build up a fire escape, which they did, and by means of which they escaped, the conflagration lighting the surrounding country far and wide. The firemen continued at work, and succeeded in saving a semi-detached billiard-room and tables. The remainder of the mansion was reduced to a mere wreck, and the damage done was £20,000 to £25,000, and would have been still greater but for the energy displayed in removing furniture and valuables. In fact, however, of every effort, all the bed-room furniture, some of which was of considerable value, was destroyed. The fire was altogether got under even at a late hour on Saturday, as the centre of the hall was burning. The family diamonds and jewels were saved.

The Messenger.

MORNING EDITION.

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PARIS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1883.

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NOTICE.

A Four-page Supplement is published with this day's number of the MESSENGER, and will be delivered gratis with each copy of the paper. It contains our American news and an interesting variety of literary extracts.

Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 3-4, 1883.

THE IMPROVED PROSPECT IN IRELAND.

At the Commission Court in Dublin on Wednesday another blow was struck at the organized lawlessness which is in conflict with the law in Ireland. The man Delaney, who was captured a few weeks ago when about to attempt the life of Mr. Justice Lawson, was convicted and sentenced to ten years' penal servitude. By such exemplary sentences, there is reason to hope, the system of terrorism by which an attempt has been made to paralyze the administration of justice in the Irish capital will be beaten down. Delaney's case was clear enough, so far as the facts were concerned, though a difficulty arose on a point of law which rendered the first trial, on the charge of attempting to murder the Judge, abortive. On Wednesday the prisoner was indicted for a conspiracy to murder. The same able counsel who had got the former indictment quashed "challenged the array" on the ground that notice of a special jury had not been given in the case actually before the Court, the objection was overruled, and the satisfaction was abundantly proved to the satisfaction of the jury. Although Delaney's finger did not pull the trigger of the weapon he carried, and that he had not technically attempted the crime—his movements and equipment left no doubt of his intent. The fact that a murder was not committed was due, beyond all reasonable doubt, to the precautions taken for the protection of the Judges, who are assailed with the most frantic invective in the organs and on the platforms of the separatist party. The excretion which Mr. Davitt and still less scrupulous agitators in Ireland heap upon "Castle rule" and "partisanship on the Bench" makes it imperatively necessary that high functionaries, political and judicial, should not be left exposed to the outrages of an excitable populace. But Delaney's proceedings were not those of a mere ruffian, less street-ruffian inflamed by the rhetoric of his faction. He was armer of a costly and powerful character, purchased several months before by another person, evidently of superior station, at a gunsmith's in Oxford-street. Delaney, a working carpenter, not in regular employment, could not have bought the weapon himself, and he was unable to account satisfactorily for his possession of it. He was observed watching Mr. Justice Lawson's house some time before the attempt; he dogged the Judge through the streets, and was approaching him by a sudden movement, when he was seized with his hand on the butt of the loaded revolver. For the accused no witnesses were called. His counsel contended that the charge of conspiring with some persons unknown to commit a murder had not been made out. But the jury drew the inevitable inference from the unchallenged evidence of the witnesses for the Crown, and the Judge imposed the heaviest penalty allowed by law. The position of the judicial bench in Ireland is in many ways a painful and difficult, though economical one. The Judge's salaries—about two-thirds of the English rate—a fair mark for the pruning knife. There can be no doubt that attempts to single them out for personal attacks should be punished with the utmost severity. It is questionable whether slightly veiled incitements to such attacks are not too often passed over with mistaken leniency. The resolution with which juries, both in Dublin and in the provinces, are now doing their duty is a cheering sign; but it must not be taken for more than it is worth. It must be remembered that the jurors are taken from a special class, and that even an accidental want of vigilance on the part of the Crown counsel may lead to a defeat of justice, as in the first trial for the Lough Muck murder. But there is undoubtedly a change in the social atmosphere which encourages honest and loyal men to come forward and take their share of the responsibilities of citizenship. This is, in the main, due to the operation of the Crimes Act, which gives some assurance that outrages will be punished and law-abiding men protected. The Crimes Act, however, would have accomplished little if it had not been for the notable improvement in the administration of the law. To Mr. Foster belongs the credit of having originated the plan of dividing the country into districts under "special resident magistrates," each supreme in his own district and possessing powers of initiative in all matters of police. But without the authority conferred by the Crimes Act, which Mr. Foster was unable to obtain from his colleagues down to the time of his resignation, the new system would probably have been less successful than it has proved. Under Lord Spencer, aided by Mr. Jenkinson's Anglo-Indian experience, its organization was completed and strengthened, and it has been at work for some months with increasingly good results. The "special magistrates," of whom there are now six, are directly responsible to the Lord-Lieutenant, constantly report to him, regularly and on emergencies, and from time to time confer with him separately and sometimes, as they did last week, in a body. The stipendiary magistrates are responsible to the "specials"—who might well have been called, as Mr. Foster desired, "Commissioners," after the Anglo-Indian precedent. The police are responsible to them, except in matters of discipline. In conjunction with the summary jurisdiction of the magistrates under the Crimes Act, this system—a real system of government—is to a certain extent independent of the action of juries. But it is plain that loyal men, with such a system behind them, have an encouragement to do their duty which they never had before.—Times.

ANOTHER MURDER IN IRELAND.—John Sheridan, jun., an ex-Suspect of Costra, Ballinacorney, county Leitrim, was murdered on Tuesday night in the public road at Anghoo, about two miles from Ballinacorney. The deceased had recently been evicted from his holding. The cause of the murder has not yet been ascertained. Two men, who it is believed attacked the deceased, have been arrested.

THE FLOODS.

The "ethereal mildness" of the present winter appears to be by no means accompanied, on the Continent at least, by that gentleness which the poet associated with it in reference to a more appropriate season. Vast floods have taken place in England, and in Germany they have gathered with a vengeance. That country, at least North Germany, has for some years been pretty free from the plague of waters which has successively attacked France, Hungary, and Italy. Its physical conformation seems indeed to render it less liable than some others to such accidents. It has not the winding and sluggish streams or the rapid mountain torrents which in one way and another are about equally dangerous, and its forests have suffered much less than those of France. Our Wiesbaden correspondent telegraphs that at noon on Wednesday the Rhine reached the great height it had attained in November, and that 10,000 persons are homeless in the districts around Worms. The records are said to show no such floods for a full century. Almost every part of the river's course seems to be suffering. At Mayence and some other large towns the most strenuous engineering efforts for carrying out which the large garrisons afford facilities have succeeded in staving off the danger to a great extent, though on Wednesday the situation was still regarded as extremely critical. The smaller villages and scattered houses appear to be in the greatest jeopardy. Houses have fallen by the hundred, great lakes many miles in width have been formed, dams and embankments have been burst, cattle, grain and crops destroyed, and a great, though unfortunately not proportionate, loss of human life incurred. In the Danube things appear to be equally bad, and as the Danube is more impetuous river than the Rhine, even greater damage may be feared. Late on Tuesday the Danube at Vienna was seventeen feet above its usual height, which, considering the great volume and breadth of the river, represents an appalling bulk of water. Our Vienna correspondent, in a despatch dated Wednesday night, says that the inhabitants of that city who live on the river bank passed an anxious night on Tuesday. At Ottensheim the bridge of boats was washed away, and Pesth is in much danger from the waters. Not so much ill news is reported from the third great river of Germany, the Elbe, but as there is mischief already in Bohemia and about its upper valley, this too is not unlikely to follow suit. That Holland should be suffering from floods may seem only normal, but it must be remembered that the Dutch of to-day are by no means so amphibious as their ancestors. All this news represents an immense amount of suffering. Germany is not a rich country, and the "margin" of its poorer inhabitants, especially the agricultural classes, is far smaller than in France, while there is nothing like the amount of spare money among the middle and upper classes that there is in England. As in all countries, moreover, which have long been fully cultivated, and possess extensive water-courses descending from distant hills, a very great deal depends on the dykes. If anything like a general failure of these were to take place on the Rhine or the Danube the results, especially to the towns, would be of the very gravest character. Nor is the harm done by such inundations as these limited to the direct action of the water. Landslips are spoken of as threatening in a few places in the Rhine Valley. There is no doubt that a severe frost would be welcomed in Germany, though in a way it would add terribly to the folk. Such great turbid lakes of rapidly running water as are described would not, indeed, freeze, but at least the windows of heaven would not be opened for the adding of more water to the already overflowing fountains.—Daily News.

THE AGITATION IN ARMENIA.

The Varna correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Wednesday night:—I have received further information from Erzerum which fully confirms what I have stated in a recent dispatch as to the existence of a popular movement among Armenians for its ultimate object their delivery from the Turkish yoke. At Constantinople, the authorities, as usual, are taking every precaution to conceal the real state of things, whilst at the same time instructions are sent to the Governor of the province not to act with violence in order to stamp out the movement. In obedience to these orders some four or five hundred unfortunate Armenians have been arrested and incarcerated in the pestiferous gaols of Erzerum. There can be no doubt that Russia supports the movement in order to further her own objects of aggrandisement in Upper Asia. The appearance of a number of guerilla bands in the neighbourhood of her frontier would furnish Russia with a sufficient pretext to occupy her neighbor's territory, with, of course, the ostensible object of restoring order there. Prominent Armenians with whom I have had conversations lately on the state of affairs in Asia all ascribe the movement which has broken out among their co-religionists to the abandonment of their cause by the European Powers. "England does something," they say, "to us, but it is not what we need; we need to see to it that something would be done to us to help us to our condition; but, finding her policy tends more and more to keep aloof from Armenian affairs, and that Article Sixty-one of the Berlin Treaty remains a dead letter, we are in despair, and compelled to look to Russia for assistance. If Mr. Gladstone, who made such a fuss about the Armenians—had been out of office, he would have been the first to taunt the Government with abandoning these last, after affixing their signature to a Treaty in which they solemnly undertook to secure better government for them." If nothing results from the consideration of past promises, it is at least hopes England, in the interest of humanity at large, to see that the unfortunate people now confined in the dungeons at Erzerum receive a fair trial in the hands of the Turkish authorities, and the British Consul should be instructed to watch and report on the proceedings.

THE MADAGASCAR ENVOYS.—The members of the Madagascari Embassy had a very warm welcome at Manchester on Tuesday. Among the sights which were shown were a large spinning mill, a calico-printing establishment, and one of the largest Manchester warehouses. They also attended on "Change" at the hour of high "change," and were much interested in the proceedings. The merchants offered them a very warm greeting. In the evening they attended a *conversazione* in the town-hall, given in their honour by the mayor, and attended by about 1,500 persons.

ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND MADAGASCAR.

In the *Contemporary Review* for the current month, the Rev. James Sibree, after combating the claims put forth on behalf of France with regard to Madagascar, goes on to say:—"The question now arises, what have Englishmen to do in this matter, and what justifies them in taking part in the dispute? Let us first frankly make up our minds. We have no right to hinder, nor do we seek to prevent, the legitimate development of the colonial power of France. So far as France can replace savagery by true civilisation, we shall rejoice in her advances in any part of the world. As for us, we have no right to do so, nor do we pretend to the exercise of the duty of police of the world. But at the same time, while we ought not and cannot undertake such extensive responsibilities, we have in this part of the Indian Ocean constituted ourselves for many years a kind of international police for the interests of humanity and freedom; and this fact has been expressly or tacitly recognised by other European Powers. The sacrifices we have made to abolish slavery in our own colonies, and our commercial supremacy and naval power, have justified us, and in place of a number of petty turbulent chiefdoms, desirous of progress, and able to put down intestine wars, as well as the export slave-trade of the country. Had we lived at the Court of Radama, exercising a powerful influence for good over the king, and doing very much for the advancement of the people. In later times, through English influence and by the provisions of our treaty with Madagascar, the importation of the slave population—those of African blood, brought into the island by the Arab slave-trading—has been set free (in June, 1875). And England has done very much during the last sixty years to develop civilisation and enlightenment among the natives of Madagascar, and to send out by the London Missionary Society from 1820 to 1875, introduced many of the useful arts—viz., improved methods of carpentry, iron-working, and weaving, the processes of tanning, and several manufactures of chemicals, soap, gunpowder, etc., and they also constructed canals and railways for rice culture. From 1862 to 1882 the same society's builders have introduced the use of brick and stone construction, have taught the processes of brick and tile manufacture and the preparation of iron, and have erected numerous schools, brick churches, and houses; and these arts have been so readily learned by the people, that the capital and other towns have been almost entirely rebuilt within the last fifteen years with dwellings of European fashion. England has also been the principal agent in the introduction of the Malagasy missionaries were the first to reduce the native language to a grammatical system, and to give the people their own tongue in a written form. They also prepared a considerable number of books, and founded an extensive system of primary schools. And yet England has done for Madagascar far more plausible case might be made out—were we so disposed—for 'English claims' on the island than any that France can produce. 3rd. England has considerable political interests in preserving Madagascar free from French control. The island is not yet over-looked, as the influence of the French in these seas is already sufficiently strong. Not only are they established in the small islands of Ste. Marie and Nosibe, off Madagascar, but the Comoro group, Mayotte, and Mohilla, Reunion, and the Mascareignes, and the Seychelles are under English government, and they are largely French in speech and sympathy. And it must be remembered that the first instalment of territory which is now coveted includes five of six large islands, besides many smaller ones, and the river mouths of the Bay of Diego Suarez, one of the finest natural harbours, and admirably adapted for a great naval station. The possession of these, and eventually of the whole island, would seriously disturb the balance of power in the Indian Ocean, and in these seas, and in certain very possible political contingencies would be a formidable menace to our South African colonies. 4th. We have also commercial interests in Madagascar which cannot be disregarded, and which largely touch the commerce of the world, it is a country of great natural resources, and its limited export and import trade, chiefly in English and American hands, is already worth about a million annually. Our own share in this is fourfold that of the British subjects, and the proportion of five to one; and our valuable colony of Mauritius derives a great part of its food supply from the great island. But apart from the foregoing considerations, it is from no narrow jealousy, or from a desire to maintain French predominance in Madagascar, that we work disinterestedly for freedom and humanity in that part of the world. We are not wholly free from blame ourselves with regard to the treatment of the coolie population of Mauritius; but it must be remembered, that, although that island is a French possession, its inhabitants are chiefly French in government, and they retain a great deal of the utter want of recognition of the rights of coloured people which seems inherent in the French abroad. So that successive governors have been constantly thwarted by the natives and police in their efforts to obtain justice for the coolies. The French flag, by being allowed to be used by slave-driving, an inquiry owing to which our brave Captain Brownrigg met his death not long ago. Is it any exaggeration to say that an increase of French influence in these seas is one of the saddest and most deplorable things that would certainly work disastrously for the progress of Madagascar itself. All hope of progress is bound up in the strengthening and consolidation of the central Hova Government, with capable governors representing its authority over the other provinces. But for many years past the French have depreciated and ridiculed the Hova power; and except Mr. Guillaumin, who in his 'Documents sur la Partie Occidentale de Madagascar,' has written with due appreciation of the civilising policy of Radama I., there is hardly any French writer but has spoken evil of the central government, simply because every step taken towards the unification of the country makes their own project less feasible. French policy is, therefore, to stir up the old tribal wars, and rebellion, and so cause intestine war, in which case France will come in and offer 'protection' to all rebels. Truly a noble 'mission' for a great and enlightened European nation!"

SEIZURE OF AN IRISH LADY.—A coroner's inquest was held on Tuesday night on the body of a lady named Adelaide Murray, aged twenty-three, who committed suicide in her own residence on Monday evening by taking prussic acid. Miss Murray had for a number of years been engaged in literary pursuits, and supplied contributions to a number of periodicals. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that she committed suicide by taking prussic acid while in a state of unsound mind, and the conduct of the chemist who sold the drug to Miss Murray was strongly commented on by the coroner.

RECOLLECTIONS OF LÉON GAMBETTA.

(FROM THE "TIMES.")
Léon Gambetta was in private life exactly what he seemed to be to those who saw him in public. He never wore that "east-river" mask, which Balzac speaks as being necessary to every French statesman; and it was because he was so natural that he remained a puzzle to the last to men who thought that the plainest signs in a politician's character should be made manifest by his dress. He was curiously misjudged by those who set him down for a political charlatan, as M. Sardou did in his comedy of *Rabagas*, or for a more blustering office-seeker, *splendide mendace*, as was done by M. Alphonse Daudet in *Yvan*. In reality, Gambetta was essentially truthful and heartily honest, though his bluntness and scorn of some of his opponents, who were more honest than adventurers, enabled them to say that he was a despoiler of honest scruples. He did not despise scruples, but he made an excuse for not joining in a fray. Of a Republican who was sincerely honest, though nervous, and whom he respected, he used to say:—"The man is a Koran; I never consult him without getting sound, moral maxims over which I ponder all the while day." But his proper place is on the shelf, "but he himself had a lionine confidence in his own power to prevail over enemies in open conflict; and he hated petty means of circumventing an adversary, lobby-intrigues, subterfuges, and other such things." It was only last year that, addressing his constituents in the Chamber, he was interrupted by a Republican who was sincerely honest, though nervous, and whom he respected, he used to say:—"The man is a Koran; I never consult him without getting sound, moral maxims over which I ponder all the while day." 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THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE.—The *Times* understands that the Queen has been pleased to signify her intention to appoint Field-Marshal his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, K.G., G.C.B., to be a personal aide-de-camp to her Majesty, in recognition of the services rendered by his Royal Highness in connection with the Egyptian war.

Branch Offices:—LONDON, 168, STRAND, NICE, 15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

PARIS, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1883.

PARIS: PRICE 40 CENTIMES
OUT OF PARIS: 45 CENTIMES

LONDON, JANUARY 8-9, 1883.

MR. GLADSTONE.

The anticipation that the present month would be given up to the din of political arms has been happily frustrated, and, though the cause is one which will be heard of with universal regret, there are countervailing advantages likely to be recognised with equal unanimity. Mr. Gladstone's medical advisers have come to the conclusion that he is overworked and needs rest. On this ground they have forbidden the Prime Minister to visit his constituents in Mid Lothian and to fulfil the somewhat rash promises he had given of repeating as a mere *tour de force*, the oratorical achievements of the campaign of 1870-80. It is characteristic of Mr. Gladstone that, in his seventh-fourth year, he has needed the curb of medical advice to restrain him from facing the inclemency of the weather and the fatigues of a long series of public meetings in the metropolitan county of Scotland. No one who had witnessed his performances in Parliament during the past session could doubt that the Prime Minister himself would not have dreamt of shrinking from his engagements on the score of age or infirmity. Nor is it probable that Mr. Gladstone's speeches in Mid Lothian would have been at all deficient in the familiar qualities of his oratory. At the same time, even Mr. Gladstone is human, though he sometimes seems to need the ancient remainder of that truth. The member for Mid Lothian has, in all probability, paid many fine and some deserved compliments to the invigorating breezes of the country which, three years ago, in a pardonable confusion of ideas, he called "the land o' the leal." Nevertheless, the airs of the East Coast of Scotland are rather too sharply tonic, at the present season, for a statesman who is not only in his seventy-fourth year, but who has worked as a Minister and as a Parliamentary leader during the past twelve months to the astishment and the shame of energetic men his juniors by a whole generation. Three years ago, the Liberals could not dispense with Mr. Gladstone's aid. Mid Lothian campaign was the final movement in the struggle which ended in the victory of April, 1880. But there is no such necessity at present for insisting that the Prime Minister, who has a duty to discharge to the country as well as to his constituents, shall expose himself to hardship, and even grave risk, in order that he may gratify public curiosity or conduct the formal triumph of a party. The Liberals are sufficiently assured of their hold upon the electorate to acknowledge frankly and with satisfaction that Mr. Gladstone's medical advisers are right in protesting against the pre-arranged performances in Edinburgh and the neighbourhood. Doubtless, the Opposition may unkindly hint that Mr. Gladstone himself will not be sorry to escape the "heckling" to which the representatives of Scotch constituencies have, in ordinary cases, to submit. It would, however, be a strange and misapprehension of the Prime Minister's character to imagine that he would evade, in any circumstances whatever, the task of meeting inopportune or embarrassing questions with ingenious answers. He will, perhaps, himself deplore the slight indisposition, resulting from his extraordinary efforts in Downing Street, and in the House of Commons, which has lost him the opportunity of explaining to the rigid Presbyterian orthodoxy of Mid Lothian the "true inwardness," as the Americans would say, of the alleged negotiations at the Vatican. These are Mr. Gladstone's amusements, just as such as his outlaughts on the trees in Hawarden Park. The country has the first claim upon him while he remains at the head of affairs, as has a right to insist that he shall husband his powers for occasions and objects worthy of them.—Times.

It would be a most serious concern for the whole country, observes the *Daily News*, if Mr. Gladstone's health were to be so weakened as to prevent his attention to Parliamentary affairs during any considerable portion of the approaching Session. We are not now indulging in any mere alarmist note. We are not taking into account at all the graver possibilities which, overhauling the life even of the young, overhang more profoundly the life of the old who are growing old. We are only too glad to be able to assume that in the present instance there is no occasion for taking these possibilities into practical account. But it might well happen that a little want of care and caution on the part of the Prime Minister and of those around him at such a moment as the present might allow him to fall into a state of health which would require a prolonged rest and a temporary withdrawal from political and Parliamentary work. The country is pardonably selfish enough to dread anything of the kind. For our own sakes, therefore, as well as for the sake of Mr. Gladstone, we are all anxious that the Prime Minister should have his due amount of rest at present. Next Session we trust it may not be necessary for him to devote himself so closely to the mere business of Parliamentary administration as he has lately been compelled to do. His influence, his intellect, his eloquence, must of course always be the inspiring force of any Ministry which he leads at its head. He is not like many other Prime Ministers whom our history has known. In ordinary cases the Prime Minister initiates, directs, and guides. Mr. Gladstone initiates, directs, and guides; but also does an amount of work of his own which no other man's work can compare. He is like one of the kings and commanders of poetry and romance, who were not only the light and the guide of their armies, but were also the best fighting men the armies could bring to the front. Achilles, Charlemagne, Cœur de Lion, Robert Bruce—these chiefs were not merely expected to order the campaign, but to head the battle. No genius like theirs to array the charge, and also no right arm like theirs to wield sword or battle axe. Mr. Gladstone is such a man in the political field. His followers could not do without him in the coming Session, and the country can afford to let him have a needed interval of rest just now. It is the hope and the interest of all men who look to him for leadership that he may avail himself of the opportunity to the full and take rest to-day in order that he may be strong and ready to-morrow.

A FRENCH COLLEGE IN ENGLAND.

In an article suggested by the recent conference of French teachers in London the *Standard* says:—It is gratifying to hear from M. Bue his opinion that since he has been in England the study of the French language has made great strides. The fact, indeed, is undoubted, and it is reflected in the improvement which has taken place in the position, scholastic and social, of French masters. Few lots were so unenviable as that of the French professor in English schools two or three generations ago. The services were engaged not for appearance sake 'ban because they were deemed of any real importance. The study of the language and literature which he taught was largely optional; and it was an understood thing that the rules of ordinary school discipline were suspended in the room which was the scene of the unfortunate gentleman's labours. Boys, for the most part, took up French, as they took up drawing, not from any earnest desire for knowledge or intention of learning, but in a spirit of amiable playfulness, by way of wedging an hour or two of recreation weekly into the school curriculum. They had no personal animosity to Monsieur le Professeur, nor did they wish of malice to make it a burden to him, but they never occurred to them to regard him otherwise than as a kind of joke. They had in the majority of instances a noble contempt for the French tongue, and they were somewhat fortified in this, by the absence of any encouragement given to the French master by his classical and mathematical colleagues. If the Professor remonstrated against the inattention and volubility of his pupils, his protests were received with something less than respect. The chances were that 'Monsieur' then lost his temper. The British schoolboy became more uproarious than ever, and the rest of the hour devoted to the study of the language of Racine and Moliere was characterised by Rime and disorder. All that was necessary to disgraceful, and it is difficult to know that it has completely disappeared now. Many things have contributed to this result. The establishment in all, or nearly all, schools of a modern size, where French and German divide attention with Latin and

mathematics; the tendency in some schools to drop Greek, after a certain very modest degree of proficiency has been gained, and substitute French for it; and the growing prominence given to French in the multiplying competitive examinations of the day, have combined to bring home forcibly to the mind of the British school-boy, and to the most fanatical champions of a purely classical education, that a knowledge of French is not a thing to be despised. The establishment of the Prince Consort's prizes for modern languages at Eton, the creation of French, Italian, and German Professorships at Oxford, and of the Taylorian Scholarships, have also produced a good effect. Nor have the speeches delivered on the subject, and the articles written, been without their result. Much influence of travel. It is possible to go from one end of Europe to the other without knowing a word of any other language out that spoken by the inhabitants of our islands, and, as a matter of fact, many people actually do so. In the same way, a considerable proportion of the votaries of the French play in London are not intimately acquainted with the tongue employed by the actors. But the feeling has become tolerably general that Englishmen in France, if they are wholly ignorant of French, are sure to look a little ridiculous. The Society of French Scholars is not satisfied merely with the work of an organ zation, but it has the work of looking after the establishment of a French Lycée or College, in England, at which English children may receive the same instruction that they would in France. This is carrying the war into the enemy's country with a vengeance. M. Patilliau, of the Charterhouse, is the author of the scheme, and it seems to us that the idea is an excellent one. A French School in

England, perpetuating the traditions of French discipline, is certainly not desirable, and is little likely to be a success. But a School providing exceptional opportunities for the study of the French literature and language, and for the literature and language of other countries, might easily attract a large number of boys, and prove a formidable competitor to some of the classic institutions which are part of the birthright of the youth of Great Britain. These establishments were never more on their trial than at the present moment. English parents are long-suffering, but there are signs that they are beginning to rebel against the existing régime, under which a large percentage of boys leave school, after three or four years, knowing, perhaps, a little of Latin and Greek, but next to nothing of French, German, or Italian. A wise parent regards the money which he expends on the education of his son in the light of an investment. He devotes so much capital to the purpose, and he is beginning to ask why he should not get for it an equivalent. As it is, he too often finds that before the lad on whom such expenditure has been lavished can qualify for the Army or the Civil Service he must be placed in the hands of a private tutor, or be sent abroad. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising if he is tempted to take a commercial, or, at least, a business view of the educational problem. If there existed in England a large public School where a thorough and practical knowledge of the French language and of other modern tongues could really be acquired, its popularity and success would be assured.

NEW POWDER MAGAZINES.—The large new magazines being erected at Chatham, near Rochester, were inspected on Saturday by Colonel S. J. Nicholson, Royal Artillery, Assistant-Director of Artillery, and Colonel J. H. Smith, one of the Directors of Works for Fortifications. The erection of the magazines is rapidly approaching completion, and have been built chiefly by the convicts at Chatham, and are erected on the marsh land between the Thames and Medway, far removed from any habitations. They are intended to house the large quantity of gunpowder and explosives now stored in the Government magazines at Upnor, the War Department authorities having, on the representation of the Corporation of Rochester and the public bodies at Chatham, urged the constant presence of the inhabitants of those thickly-populated neighbourhoods from the close proximity of the magazines at Upnor, consented to erect fresh magazines on a spot where no danger could possibly be apprehended. The magazines at Upnor Castle will continue to be used for the storage of projectiles which are not dangerous.

FRESH RUMOURS OF WAR.

The correspondent of the *Standard* at Frankfort telegraphed on Monday night :—

A conversation I recently had with one of the principal generals of Austria-Hungary has made it quite clear to my mind—first, that the army of the Dual Monarchy is preparing for a campaign in the coming spring; and, secondly, that the envisaged campaign is directed against Russia, but against an antagonist nearer home. At the opening of the last Delegations Count Kalnoky allowed it to be seen that the Austrian and Russian Foreign Offices were on intimate terms, and that negotiations were going on between them, with a view to the conclusion of a treaty, and with the intention of the Austrians in understanding on the situation of the Balkan peninsula. It was evident that Count Kalnoky had made this the principal object of his policy in the East, and that he had determined to seize the opportunity he conceived to be offered by the Egyptian difficulty to increase the territory of the Dual Monarchy. The territory of the North Albanian mountains, which are inhabited by Roman Catholic Arnauts, Austrian agents have, as your Constantinople and other correspondents reported recently been swarming. In the private sittings of the Hungarian Delegations the Ministers of the Emperor, indeed, have been in communication with Russia; but he did so solely because such a hint was the best means of inducing the Magyars to vote any sum, and any motion required of them. No such hint was given in the Austrian Delegation. The late journalistic campaign against the Austro-German alliance in the above all discontented provinces and the Vienna Press Bureaux on account of the discussion, is easily explained by the inclination of Count Kalnoky, of the Court, and of most of the Generals—the greater number of them are Slavophiles—Russia. The Austrian alliance has lost its old cordial and intimate character. M. Koloman Titya, the Hungarian Premier, in his reply to Deputy Ugron's interpellation, did not utter a word about the alliance with Germany, but said, in his New Year's speech, that Austro-Hungary would not ally itself with Germany, unless the alliance was sought. An existing alliance is unnecessary to "seek." It may be that my authority had received his information and orders previously to M. Gambetta's death, and that the association has been changed by that event. But the assert again the Austrian alliance, and the loss of the old alliance, that it was prior to the 31st ultimo. It is, however, also quite possible that Count Kalnoky's daring plans are no longer suited to the times.

THE EGYPTIAN LAND QUESTION.

Telegraphing on Monday night, the Cairo correspondent of the *Standard* says :—

The Government continues working with praiseworthy earnestness at internal reforms. Cherif Pachá appears anxious that his Ministry should be credited with the inauguration of such legal reforms as may lay a solid foundation for a strong and stable future, and also with the creation of some really representative assembly. His name has always been associated with the idea of National Representation, and the failure of last year's experiment of a Chamber of Notables, whilst not attributable to him, may serve as a useful example, indicating the faults to be avoided in the future. To any new question a scheme has been favourably received for the settlement of the Domains Lands, which have hitherto been so costly a burden on the revenue. This Administration, comprising some four hundred (200) proprietors, sundry of them nobles, intend to be taken over by a syndicate of bankers, who will work it provisionally in the interests of the Government, selling off the property as quickly as possible, and providing, if necessary, loans to proposing purchasers, to assist them in the purchase. The most important of these lands are those of the disposal of a hundred and fifty thousand fedjans formerly acquired from peasant proprietors who are now labourers on the lands which they used to own. These lands will now be handed back by the Government to the disinherited former proprietors on such terms as they may desire, and they will be easily able to enter into full possession. It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of this step, whether it be regarded as a political or a financial measure. If the example thus set could be followed on the large Daira the value of land would quickly be appreciated, instead of the heavy and out-bonded population existing in a prosperous and contented peasantry would render both the fiscal and judicial administration of the country immeasurably easier.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS IN SPAIN.

The *Daily News* says :—Our Correspondent at Madrid telegraphs that Senor Sagasta has received the Royal commands to form a fresh Cabinet. It is generally believed that this Cabinet will be an entirely new one. This was to be expected :—

It is not easy to believe that either the Finance Minister or the Minister of Public Works was so indispendable that the entire Cabinet must be broken up because either one or the other insisted upon resigning. However, it is true that if Senor Sagasta had made the proposals attributed to him, the Cabinet was unable to come to a decision respecting them. It is said that Senor Canchao has proposed to sell the State forests of Spain, estimated to be worth seventy or eighty million dollars, in order to apply the proceeds to the current revenue. But it is quite clear that this would be a misappropriation of funds. Current expenditure ought to be defrayed out of current income, and the price of the State forests is not income, but capital. It is true the Finance Minister made the proposal attributed to him it is not easy to believe that so many of Senor Sagasta's colleagues approved it that the Ministry was broken up in consequence. It is natural to suspect that Senor Sagasta was not sorry to have an opportunity to modify his policy. It is a very early estimate of the Marshal Serrano has proved weak in the Cortes, but the Cortes as now elected does not really represent Spain, and though weak in the Cortes, it may have been formidable in the country. Senor Sagasta may therefore desire to strengthen his Ministry, not only by selecting able men, but by securing the advantage in negotiating with other sections of the Liberal party.

A BUGLAR AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—A German named Ludwig Roth, aged thirty-three, was charged at Bow-street on Monday with being on enclosed premises and having house-breaking implements in his possession for the supposed purpose of committing burglary. About a quarter to one that morning a police-constable saw the prisoner in the enclosed grounds of the British Museum, and took him to the residence of Mr. A. G. Brown, the principal librarian. He could give no account of his own life, and was spoken to by the constable who took him into custody. He was searched; a jenny, a glass-cutter, a box of silent matches, a stock, three centre bits, a knife, and a bottle of gum, a dark lantern, and a pair of socks were found, some of the articles upon which the prisoner, and others lying in wait where he was taken, had been obtained access to the premises by getting over a board erected for the building of a new wing to the museum. The prisoner was remanded.

THE FATAL COLLISION OFF THE MERSEY.

The fuller accounts of the collision which occurred at the mouth of the River Mersey during a thick fog on Sunday morning show that the force with which the *Kirby Hall* ran against the City of Brussels made it surging ship, that the latter vessel was not so much damaged as she did, and that the *Kirby Hall* made a sharp lift in width, and penetrated 3 ft. into the side of the other vessel, and before any arrangements could be made for a temporary stoppage of the hole with a sail, the carpenter found that there were 14 ft. of water in the fore hold, and showing that the water must have been pouring into the steamer in immense volume. The *Kirby Hall's* out-water was entirely carried away, and there was a large rent in her iron plates between the 18 ft. and 24 ft. mark.

The narratives of the captain of the *City of Brussels* give some idea of the circumstances attending the collision. Some officers of the Mersey Bank and Harbour Board and of the Liverpool Salvage Association visited, on Monday, the scene of the catastrophe; and so, to make the spot, the position of the sunken steamer rendering her a danger to the navigation of vessels entering or leaving the Mersey. The *City of Brussels* was found to be in 13 fathoms water, and in the North-east of the North-west Lightship, with her masts above water. A steam tug with divers and apparatus was despatched to remove the vessel's masts and funnels, and thus minimize the danger to passing vessels. There seems to be no hope of raising the vessel, and the cargo will probably be recovered. No more bodies have been found.

There is a conflict of testimony as to what was the precise situation of affairs when the collision took place. According to the captain of the *Kirby Hall*, the *City of Liverpool* was going astern with such an impetus that he could not avoid contact, though from "dead slow" he had the engines turned "full speed astern." On the other hand, the testimony of the captain, purser, and others on board the *City of Liverpool* is that the engines were motionless. One of the passengers says that the first person to jump into the boat was the pilot, and that this so annoyed Captain Land that he called to the crew to put the boat back. The only exception there was no confusion or excitement. In fact, such calmness prevailed among the officers and crew that it seemed difficult to realize that the vessel was sinking under their feet. The catastrophe was the only one of disaster that Chesapeake and in the public places of Liverpool on Monday, and there was much speculation as to whether any one was blameable for the calamity.

The owners of the *City of Liverpool* state that the vessel was at the time of the collision, her engines not having been moved for 41 minutes.

Captain Land, the captain of the *City of Brussels*, says: "All the way from Queenstown until we got abreast of the Ormeau Head it was beautifully fine and clear, but when we reached the latter place, a heavy fog came on, and it was necessary to reduce the ship's speed, and it was getting tedious, we went quite slow. We then heard the sound of the bell on the North-West Lightship, whereupon we turned round and faced again to the westward, after which we stopped the steamer and allowed her to drift slowly, and first up to the lightship, and then down to the lightship. After about 41 minutes, we were blowing our steam whistles every half or quarter of a minute, as the case might be—and certainly at not more than half a minute interval—when we heard a steamer's whistle on our starboard side and also on the port side. I don't know the vessel, but I am inclined to think that she was heading, I don't know, in the same direction as we, and that she was on a parallel position, we never

wounded our engines. We suddenly saw a white light on the starboard bow one minute, and a half afterwards, and immediately a large vessel ran into us, stem first, making a gasp about *St. Ignace*, in width and penetrating the bows of the *City*, in such a manner that the vessel was forced to stop, and one gang to clear away the boats; for the chief officer and another gang to get a spar sail and place it over the hole made by the collision; and for the carpenter to sound the bells and report the amount of damage to the ship. The vessel was not out of the water for more than a few minutes, and the fore-hold, and the engineer reported lift of water in the fore-hold, and the engineer reported that water-making was fast in the stokehole, and that the fires would be out in about a minute. I thereupon ordered all hands to be put on deck, to get the boats ready to launch, and to marshal the passengers on deck, without luggage or encumbrance, and the put *er* to see all the women in the boats first, which orders were coolly and skilfully carried out by the pursers and stewards. I also instructed the carpenter to get the boats ready to launch, and to marshal the passengers in, and hang off for the ship. The vessel was by this time filling as fast as the other boats were filled promiscuously by the men without orders, and they pushed away from the side, leaving myself and the pursers, the the chief officer, the carpenter, and the steward, about six or seven other men on board.

As they were not able to get the boats to approach us again, when the ship had sunk as far as the bridge I sang out for every one to save himself, and then sprang off the bulwarks and head first into the water. I saw the boat engine and the crew of the ship in the midst of rigging, and the *City of Brussels* sank deeper and the water reached them they floated off, seized hold of any wreckage or spar that might be found, got hold of a spar, on which I floated and swam while the boat drifted. We were not able until the boats took us in and put us aboard the *Kirby Hall*. We afterwards returned and cruised round the wreck for an hour, picking up the insensible forms of the second officer and the carpenter. We used every effort to save the boats. The boats were lost, but not available. The total loss was ten, consisting of eight of the crew (including second officer and carpenter) and two Italian steerage passengers. When on board the *Kirby Hall* the utmost attention was shown to us by the captain and crew, and we were, considering their limited means, for they were only poorly provided, as the steamer was coming round on her trial trip with runners from Glasgow. We remained in the vicinity of the wreck until the day evening, when we were ordered to leave, two men were to take a pilot from the station to the Bar Lightship. From the pilot we got some beef steak and other food, which we cooked, serving it to the ladies and the steerage passengers. We then steamed up the channel, and landed in the morning about 11 o'clock at the Light, after which we went to the pier to Liverpool. I may say that every passenger was landed dry from the *City of Brussels*, and there was not a wet garment on any of them. All the passengers were safely got out of the steamer, and the members of the crew went into the boats.

The survivors of the *City of Brussels*' passengers have drawn up a testimonial to Captain Land and the officers. It is as follows:—

"Sunday, January 7, 1883.

"On board the steamship *Kirby Hall*.
 "We, passengers of the steamship *City of
 Brussels*, who have just been rescued from a
 watery grave by the above-named steamer,
 hereby wish to express our sincere gratitude
 and admiration of the courage, promptitude
 and coolness in danger which were exem-
 plified by Captain Land, Purser Collar, and
 the officers of the ill-fated vessel which has just
 gone down so near the termination of the
 voyage from America.—Captain Turvey
 Southport; George Skinner; J. H. Elbrook
 and wife, Chicago; J. M. Kelly and wife,
 D. Seigel, J. J. Gee, M. Dufour, Mr. and
 Mrs. W. K. Marnall, G. Jones, Captain
 W. K. Masters, J. J. Plummer, E. H.
 Hunt, David Jones, B. H. Buxton, John
 Owens, Henry Cardell, Eliza Cardell, J. M.
 Buckley."

Mr. D. Siegel, who was a passenger on board the *City of Brussels*, says he originally took his passage to England in the *City of Berlin*, but on the mishap to that vessel was transferred to the *City of Brussels*. The *City of Brussels* had good weather for the first four days, after which a terrible gale came on. They safely weathered through the skyful seamanship of Captain Land. Till Sunday morning they were all happy. About half past three a most fearful storm came on from the north, when he heard a sudden crash. He got out of bed, but not hearing just then anything further he laid down to rest again, when he was alarmed a second time by the cry of "Boats." He hastily put on the first garment he could find, and rushed to the deck, and saw they were getting out the boats. He observed a young lady, together with a feeble old lady, trying to get into one of the boats, and he immediately assisted them. This boat was the one which was taken command of by the *City of Berlin*. The young lady's mind he pays a high compliment, Mr. Siegel says he saw some of the drowned men fished out. One of these was the second officer, a fine, stalwart young fellow, whom it was pitiable to behold. There were about thirty persons in the boat, and he saw them all. He then hallooing to the Glasgow boat. They were, he adds, very kindly received on board the *Kirby Hall*, and the doctor of the *City of Brussels* was very kind to them. Mr. Siegel says he lost all his baggage, and that he had no money, and no food in money. Asked if he and the others had not time to get their effects together, Mr. Siegel replied that he was afraid of being left behind, as it was impossible to know how long she would keep up. One of his companions was an artist, who had some valuable pictures, and with all the others, were, for the most part, lost.

Mr. George Skinner, another of the passengers, states that the boats were lowered very expeditiously, and into the first one jumped the pilot. This so enraged the captain that he ordered the boats to be pulled into the water. With this exception there was not the least bit of confusion or excitement, and almost everyone appeared to be exceedingly self-possessed. The lady passengers were the first to be hoisted into the boats, and then the men. The paddling out, waiting for the engines to start, and the pulling down with the cable, and suddenly the vessel went down with a tremendous noise stem first. Only twenty to twenty-five minutes elapsed from the time the *City of Brussels* was struck to the time when she was under the water. Thereafter, witnessing the foundering of the steamship, the purser steered the boat in the direction of the *Kirby Hall*, which had stopped her engines after the collision. They called upon the captain, who was in the boat, for assistance, but could not, as he had only four deck hands on board. Seeing that he was unable to render any assistance, the purser unlashed his boots and on the starboard side of the vessel, the occupants began swimming. The purser then pulled back to the wreck to see if he could render any assistance, but he saw nobody to rescue, and

after some time returned.

The captain of the *Kirby Hall* states that on hearing the whistles on board the *City of Brussels* he immediately backed his vessel and full speed ahead. The captain of the latter was to jump from the steamer. The two steerage passengers who were drowned jumped overboard without waiting to see what could be done for them. Neither passengers nor crew were able to save any of their goods. The passengers on the *City of Brussels* have drawn up an address, expressing sincere gratitude at and admiration of the courage, promptness and coolness and danger to the lives of the officers of that vessel. She had on board when she left New York 70 steerage passengers, 20 cabin passengers, and 101 crew.

The Standard observes:—The disaster which has overtaken the steamer *City of Brussels* at the mouth of the Mersey will excite universal regret. In this splendid vessel has suffered the miserable fate of being run down in a fog by the *Kirby Hall*, a steam ship which had only just left Glasgow on her trial trip. The stem of the Scotch vessel ran far into the starboard bow of the Atlantic steamer, letting it in a flood of water, and in less than twenty minutes it was a little more than twenty minutes. Such a result, after all that has been said with regard to the guarantees for safety in our great ocean-going steam ships, cannot but create a feeling of disappointment in the public mind. In smooth water, and in the hands of experienced men, the ship is not so liable to be run down as it is at present. The rapid sinking of the *City of Brussels* has caused the hurried moments time was not allowed for the work that had to be done, and where the ship went down, several of the gallant crew sank with her. How the collision took place is one question. Why it proved fatal to human life is another; and while we are thankful that the sacrifice was not greater, we yet feel disposed to consider that if ocean-going steamers are what we are often told they are or might be, there ought to have been no loss of life whatever. Whether the vessel should have sunk at all is a different matter for consideration, viewed in the light of watertight compartments. Properly constructed, and duly maintained, these subdivisions of a ship would appear to preclude the risk of any sudden sinking of the hull. Yet somehow in practice the result seems to be, at least, do not confer all the benefit which is expected from them. The subject becomes the more important, owing to the enormous size now given to our ocean-going steamers. The Inman Line, the great rival to the Cunard Company, has some magnificent ships in its fleet, and the *Great Eastern* is, in size, though the *Servia*, of the Cunard fleet, comes only a shade behind her in respect to tonnage, and is in all respects a marvellous ship. The *City of Brussels* was built in 1869, and therefore will not rank on equality with the largest vessels now afloat, or even with the older ships which have represented all that is now being done to render ships secure against the perils of collision. The grand specimens of marine architecture which have been launched since her first appearance may be expected to surpass her in their appliances for self-protection. Yet even with a similar trial they will go successfully through the ordeal. Considered as a whole, an iron ship is enormously strong. Yet the several parts are intrinsically weak. She is the embodiment of skill, not of brute strength, and nothing but her skill can save her. She must be deftly constructed, so that she may be able to stand up to the force of her side cut into as by a giant ploughshare, and yet not go down under the waves. Science can secure this, and we trust the fatal issues to the career of the *City of Brussels* will lead to greater efforts for building ships which shall not only be as strong as the old-fashioned iron ships, but also as secure as human ingenuity can make them against the perils of the sea.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A CLERGYMAN.—While superintending preparations for a theatrical entertainment on Saturday, the Rev. W. S. Thomas, vicar of Halse, Somersetshire, was suddenly seized with illness, and died from an attack of heart disease before medical assistance could be obtained.

MR. GLADSTONE'S ILLNESS.

THE MIDLOTHIAN VISIT ABANDONED.

Dr. Andrew Clarke, Mr. Gladstone's medical attendant, was summoned to Hawarden by telegraph on Saturday evening. The Premier had been pronounced by his medical attendants to be suffering from overwork, and that he must rest for a short time. The doctor, who had therefore been given up, Mr. Gladstone's indisposition dates, it is believed, from a Boxing Day, the afternoon of which he occupied, despite the inclemency of the weather, in felling a tree in Hawarden Park. He contracted a chill in consequence of the exposure, and the visit of Dr. Clarke, on the following day, which compelled him to keep to his room during the greater part of Wednesday. The next day he was somewhat better, and by the Friday, which was his 75th birthday, he had so far rallied from his indisposition as to be able to attend to Dr. Clarke, who was then the doctor. Dr. Clarke said that Mr. Gladstone is now compelled to take rest.

In the course of Monday afternoon a number of inquiries were made at No. 10, Downing-street, and there was placed upon the hall table for the inspection of visitors the following note:—"Mr. Gladstone is somewhat overworked, and needs rest for a short time. Dr. Clarke, who is staying at Hawarden, has advised him in consequence to give up his visit to his constituents in Midlothian next week."

A Hawarden correspondent writes:—"There is nothing alarming, or even serious, in the condition of Mr. Gladstone. He has felt the strain of the Autumn Session and heavy official work which he has transacted since the prorogation. The right hon. gentleman, however, was able to attend church on Sunday, both morning and evening, and he again attended service at the church on Monday morning. Dr. Andrew Clarke has left for London. He has ordered the right hon. gentleman to take rest for the present and abstain from all excitement."

The *St. James's Gazette* says:—The reports of Mr. Gladstone's illness are likely to cause a considerable amount of apprehension, and it is not without reason that there is a suddenness about it. We have heard before that Mr. Gladstone had taken a chill after a spell of his customary exercise of tree-felling, but his indisposition seems not to have been serious enough up to Saturday half a dozen guests at Hawarden. Summoning a doctor from London by telegraph has always an alarming look; but it is not uncommonly done (when the expense cannot be afforded) in cases of no very grave character; but had that to be remembered, if there were to one report, Mr. Gladstone was pronounced to be suffering from over-work—which again does not look very well. It is, however, not to trust to first reports in a matter of this kind, though it is true, we believe, that Mr. Gladstone has been overworked on occasions suggested to his illustrious patient the necessity, or the desirability, of rest.

THE POLITICAL TOURIST IN IRELAND.

The *St. James's Gazette* says:—"Apropos of some observations which we lately made about Mr. Trevelyan's tour of inspection in Donegal, a correspondent sends us the following story:—"Shortly after the commencement of the present land agitation, when the hardships endured by the Irish peasant-tenants, the tyrant who owned the soil, and the English M.P.'s and special constables were running through the country either to satisfy themselves of the truth of what they had heard or to inform the British public of the real state of affairs in Ireland, I was appointed agent to a very liberal and popular landlord, and, being provided with a large amount of money for his landed property, had certainly no reason for mistreating his tenants in other than a liberal manner. On proceeding to visit the estate, which is situated some four miles from the nearest railway station, I engaged an outside car to convey me from the station to the estate. After leaving the car at the house, my driver, who came to rather a steep hill, tolling up which was a respectably dressed stout individual, apparently slightly under the influence of drink. Said the driver, 'That's one of your tinnants.' I accordingly offered him a seat, of which he promptly availed himself; and, sitting next me, began asking for information as to the condition of the people in the neighbourhood. I took advantage of our passing somewhat rashly first to open conversation by remarking, 'That land would be the better for being drained.' 'Bedad it would your honour, say my friend; 'but it is little encouragement we have for such remarks, if you please, sir, and wishing for information as to the condition of the people in the neighbourhood, do not do much for his tenants, though he should think from the appearance of the country that the tenants were pretty well off. Who is he?' 'Lord C-', was the answer—'a gentleman who I know from reputation to be one who could hardly be kinder as regards a hard or reckless landlord. I suppose of that sort?' was my next question. 'Divil a warse in the country, was the unexpected reply. Rather taken aback at this, proceeded to inquire from my informant in what respects my employer outdid his neighbours in oppressing the poor. He does so, was the reply. 'So, you are not on your own improvements?'

his own improvements. Now, young Mr. O'Connell, would you believe it, but if a poor tenant made a bit of a ditch that long—holding his two hands about six inches apart—the agent would say, 'that's a fine ditch, it's worth half an acre, and he'd be paid for it. To make a long story short, having once started him I had no further trouble, but I munched away at my sandwich while he listened to me. I was not a little surprised, therefore, then knew by hearsay, and since by experience, to be as kind and liberal as a landlord as is to be found in Ireland. As we neared the estate I noticed my friend pass his hand over his eyes, as if he were waking him from a dream. After digging about for some minutes, as if the seat of the war was getting unbearably hot, he at last addressed me in a hollow whisper, 'By God, I fear I have no chance of getting out of this, but may I have any chance the new agent?' To my answering in the affirmative, my friend turned white, dropped off the car, and sat on the inside of the ditch alternately cursing him, cursing me, and apologizing to me, while I myself, as the agent, acknowledged my own sin by saying, 'I have been an English traveller, but have I then for an English traveller.

"Now to put the moral of my tale. The English (very much so) Irish Chief Secretary has lately gone on a tour through the distressed districts in Donegal, presumably to gather information, and to offer relief to the people. It will probably be a new thing to him to be informed that it is necessary in this country to search for the truth beneath the surface. There is an inherent love of theatrical display, an intense enjoyment of the artificial, and a natural to the people, when they imagine that the smallest advantage is to be gained by perverting the truth. That it is impossible for a stranger, or indeed any one who is not in the habit of mixing freely with the people, to understand the conditions with which a country side will combine to mislead a Castle official. It would be better for such never to leave the Castle yard than to set out on a tour of inspection in a carriage and pair. With a dozen cars *en suite*, aided with a few specious men, they will be able to do what the people really desire to know the condition of the people in any particular district, let them send someone not too well known, who they can trust, to shoot or fall in the neighborhood. Let him be a man of the highest moral principle, who will give every sense with which God has endowed him, and not trusting to any one else, particularly."

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NICE—15, QUAI MASSENA.

Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 9-10, 1883.

THE SITUATION IN FRANCE.

We might say that French public men are now in the confused condition of a party who have sat down to cards, and who for some reason or other suddenly find that they are compelled to play without being allowed to look at their hands. No one as yet can pretend to be able to say in what manner, and to what extent, the removal of M. Gambetta may affect the relationships of parties. There is no man of whom it can be confidently said that he is qualified to lead the Republican majority and is sure of its confidence. More than that, no one can venture as yet to say how M. Gambetta's death may alter the condition and the policy of the Republican majority itself. There are some clouds on the sky of foreign politics. There are Frenchmen who are apparently doing their best to stir the jealousy of France on the subject of England's action in Egypt. Some very unkind things have been said in one or two French journals about the policy of revenge upon Germany which M. Gambetta is believed to have represented; and which, it is somewhat unreasonably boasted, has not been with him. Words such as these are certain to quicken the distrust and alarm of Germany, a distrust and alarm which are in themselves a sort of compliment to the national strength of France; and they may work mischief yet. We must say that the stories which represent M. Gambetta as one whose heart was set, and whose whole policy was directed, towards a campaign of retaliation against Germany. That M. Gambetta would have had such a thing if he could may be taken for granted; so would many Frenchmen who spoke less freely on the subject than M. Gambetta. One of the finest and most striking rhetorical passages in any of M. Gambetta's speeches was that in which he referred some years ago to Alsace and Lorraine, and which he purposely allowed to come to an end with an unfinished sentence more significant and menacing than any completing words could have made it. But M. Gambetta was eminently a practical politician. He knew not merely how to wait for the accomplishment of some great hope, but he would have known, we feel convinced, how to resign one great hope if another still more dear could thereby be the more surely fulfilled. M. Gambetta had the prosperity of France at heart, and above all other things; and it is quite possible that he would have come in time to believe that the prosperity of France and her national dignity as well could be better maintained and assured than by better preparations for a war of retaliation against Germany. Time works wonders in the calming of national passions and hates. For many years after Waterloo the heart of France burned with such hatred of England, and such longing for revenge, that some of the coolest observers in both countries were convinced the quarrel would have to be fought out once again. For years there was not a French statesman who would have ventured to tell his countrymen that they must think no more of projects of revenge upon England. Curiously enough it was a soldier, Marshal Soult, who first among men of any considerable note boldly and publicly advocated the policy of a genuine alliance with England. Forty years after Waterloo the French and English statesmen were in alliance, and there was no more thought of revenge for Waterloo than of revenge for Agincourt. The same change may be gradually brought about in the feeling of France towards Germany, and of Germany towards France. While France was talking of revenge upon England, Englishmen were naturally distrustful of France, just as Germany is now; and a mood of mind prevailed on both sides which might at any moment have led to war. That which has happened with regard to Germany, but it is not likely to be brought about by the idle protestations of journalists that M. Gambetta's policy of retaliation survives him; but it is not by any means certain that there also survives him a hand as firm and an intellect as practical as his; and the rash words are all the more rash when this very reasonable doubt is taken into consideration. The Chamber opened on Tuesday under depressing conditions, but depression is not despondency. France certainly does not want even now for capable men to carry on the work of the Republic. The President, M. Grévy, is, as we have said more than once already, a Republican of the best type for France—a Republican of old and settled convictions. M. Brisson is a man to whom the eyes of many are already turning. M. Jules Ferry has already given proof that he has many of the faculties of leadership. But the mere choice of a leader for the Republican majority in the Chamber would not be an event to cast any very certain light upon the fortunes of the future. We have yet to see into what forms the various sections of Republicanism now in a dissolved condition will renouveau themselves. There are men enough in France who are well able to form Administrations and carry on the business of government if all that had to be done was to maintain in prosperity the affairs of a peaceful country. The *Republique Française*, M. Gambetta's paper, said the other day that Gambetta knew but of one way to create in the Republic a Government which should have the power to govern, and that was by

union among the Republicans. We shall soon see the question tested whether such union is now likely to be found at a time of national crisis. So uncertain are the conditions on which a judgment would have to be formed in anticipation, that no one knows whether the death of M. Gambetta is more likely to draw the Republicans together for common sustenance or to split them more than ever into incompatible groups and sections.—*Daily News*.

THE COMMERCIAL OUTLOOK.

All general surveys of British commerce are properly checked by the special reports of particular branches of trade. With respect to the cotton trade, we are told that during the past year it "has been less satisfactory than was expected." So far as the future is concerned, "the present low range of prices" for the raw material is considered a hopeful feature for manufacturers; there is "a satisfactory margin for profit," and an anticipation of "a full and probably an increased consumption throughout the year." The woolen trades are said to have been "steadily progressive," and to have produced on the whole "a gratifying result." The exports show "a gratifying increase," in spite of hostile tariffs, in the trade to Continental countries, to America, and to Australia, from some important centres of industry. From Bradford, however, we have a less cheering account. Exports, it is acknowledged, are diminishing, and changes in fashion have strained the resources of manufacturers. But English enterprise, here or elsewhere, is fully capable of holding its own in the teeth of competition, foreign or domestic. We are not surprised to be informed that, in the opinion of those concerned, the home trade must have more than compensated for the deficiency of the foreign demand. The linen trade, on the other hand, so far as it is a home trade, has suffered from the disappointing harvest; the exports are said to have been "fairly maintained," though this statement, unless it be limited locally, is scarcely consistent with the most recent official returns. The jute trade, again, was unfavourably affected, early in the past year, by "the constant and increasing tendency on the part of Continental nations to impose protective tariffs." These difficulties, however, in this particular branch of business, appear to have been overcome. The silk trade has passed through a more trying ordeal, in a large degree due to "the more than ordinary fickleness of fashion;" but during the last few weeks, we learn, "a more hopeful feeling has existed, and there have been signs of a more extended business." Passing over some minor branches of commerce, we turn to the wine trade—a good thing of the consuming power of the community. We are told that there has been in the past year "a heavily decreased home consumption—upwards of a million gallons—as compared with 1881." Food supplies from abroad have, at the same time, been abundant and prices moderate. The great metal trades are in a less encouraging position; "though the total exports during 1882 have been large, general complaints are rife." The glut in the Scotch pig-iron market has been partially relieved; but the prospect of a poor American demand for the ensuing year more than counterbalances this improvement. Moreover, there is no guarantee that at any moment production may not be again increased and prices forced disastrously downwards in the copper and tin trades a large business has been done, but with great fluctuations and many failures. On the whole, prices in most of the metal markets have fallen as compared with those ruling a year ago. It is noted, however, that the Clyde shipbuilding trade fully maintains its pre-eminence, and that it has during the past twelve months attained extraordinary proportions, leaving a large quantity of work over for the present year. Elsewhere, the demand, on this account, for manufactured iron appears to be abating. It is even stated that capitalists exhibit less inclination "to invest in new vessels now that freights are reduced to a considerable extent." The "competition of capital" has increased the volume of trade in the engineering business, and the same observation applies to shipping. The Egyptian Expedition was a magnificent stroke of luck for the shipowners, although they were thrown into unreasonable alarm at one time by the possibility of the closing of the Suez Canal. An improvement in freights is expected for the year to come, though the grounds of the expectation are not very clearly explained. Looking over the whole field of British industry and commerce, it is difficult to escape from the conclusion that we may have to deal, before long, with a period, more or less protracted, of restricted profits and consequent difficulties in trade. Competition has increased and is increasing in every branch of business, and the margin of profit is cut so close, in consequence, that there is a distinct diminution in the "staying power" of traders. A man who made large profits rapidly could afford to bear up against the losses of a period of "shrinkage" or stagnation, but one who can at best look only for a small percentage on his invested capital and his own labour is naturally alarmed at any adverse signs. The country has for two or three years past been not unprosperous, but the measure of prosperity has not been such as to allow men of business to defy the storms of fortune. We must hope, therefore, that the better omens for the year on which we have entered may be fulfilled. Any reaction—though of this there are no signs—must fall heavily upon the commercial and industrial community in this country, because there is, perhaps, less reserve of strength to resist disaster than at any former crisis.—*Times*.

THE DEPRECIATION OF CHURCH LIVINGS.

A letter of the Bishop of Peterborough has recently been published, in which he states that he has in vain endeavoured to find an incumbent for a living vacant in his diocese. There is, as described by the Bishop, a comfortable house in good condition, a beautiful church, and an interesting sphere of work amongst a village population of six hundred people in a pleasant and beautiful neighbourhood. But there is no "certain income." Before the late agricultural depression set in it was worth £480 a year net. It is at present "worth nothing," its income being barely sufficient to pay the charges upon it. Unfortunately

this is a type more or less of a very large number of "livings" in the rural districts, to which the title is only applicable on the "lucus a non lucendo" principle. We have heard a good deal lately of the losses of Irish landlords, and of English ones, too, but little of the losses of the clergy, who depend on title and glebe. In thousands of instances the farmers have been unable to pay their tithes altogether, or only been able to pay a part of them, for the last two or three years, and the consequence is that many clergymen's families have been, and are, most painfully straitened in their means, and in many instances reduced to absolute want, and become actually dependent on relatives or friends. More cases of this kind would have arisen, were it not for the fact that many of the clergy have private means to fall back upon. In very many cases, also, where the income of the living is derived from the rent of glebe lands, little or no rent has been received, or the farms have been thrown up by the tenant, and the clergy themselves, rather than let them go out of cultivation and render themselves liable to heavy dilapidations, have taken them into their own hands. Too often the result of this has been, as might have been anticipated, farming at an absolute loss. At the present moment there are many hundreds of clergymen who would have been richer men had they resigned their nominally good livings two or three years ago. Unhappily it cannot be said that there is any immediate prospect of better days for these thus suffering, as the benefit of the last fairly abundant harvest can hardly be felt for some time to come. It is more than difficult to suggest any remedy for the most painful state of things.

Some considerable relief, such as a Bill as that introduced into Parliament last Session, which provided for tithes being paid by the landlord instead of the tenant, were passed; but this is only shifting a burden in a certain sense from one pair of shoulders to another, which in many cases are hardly better able to bear it. Perhaps it might be possible to raise a general fund among Church people to meet the most pressing cases among the suffering clergy, or funds for each diocese, as we believe has already been done in the diocese of Worcester. Or, again, Church people might give more liberal support to those societies, such as the Poor Clergy Relief Corporation of Southampton-street, Strand, which have for their special object the granting of temporary relief to clergymen in distress. And while speaking of these societies, it may be mentioned as a painful testimony to the state of many clergymen once in receipt of a good income, that several who were formerly able to subscribe to these funds for the benefit of their poorer brethren have recently been themselves applicants for grants. This lamentable state of things has a further ill effect, for the laity suffer from it. The clergy are but human, and are subject to the same infirmities as their flocks, and the constant care and anxiety as to ways and means, the constant strain of the *res angustia domi* has a most depressing influence on their spirits and capacities for work, and must inevitably tell its tale both in the Church and in the parish. If only for this reason there is a special call on the laity to consider this crisis and do their best to meet this exigency of the times as regards their clergy.—*Morning Post*.

EGYPT.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Tuesday:—

Among the many questions engaging the serious attention of Lord Dufferin and the Egyptian Government, one of the most important is the prudent development of population. Any one well acquainted with the various classes of the native population must be convinced that Egypt is not yet ripe for Parliamentary institutions in the English sense of the term; but, as I have frequently urged, it is very desirable that the means should be found for the enlightenment of the masses, and the extension of the Council of Ministers; secondly, for giving the people regular, legitimate means of laying complaints and wishes before those who are responsible for the welfare of the country; and, thirdly, for separating the administrative, legislative, and judicial functions of Government. The idea which seems to have found most favour for the creation of a Council composed partly by popular election and partly by nomination, which would be independent of and at the same time in close communication with the Cabinet. This Council, sitting all the year round, would examine all legislative proposals and take official cognizance of all important decisions of the Council of Ministers. For great questions deeply affecting a large portion of the population a large assembly, composed of the above Council and more members chosen by popular election, would be called together from time to time. Besides these, each province would have an elective Council for the consideration of local affairs, and this by many is considered the most practical portion of the scheme. A project in this sense has been prepared, and as there is a strong desire that the new constitution should be in harmony with the necessities of the situation, it may, perhaps, undergo considerable modifications.

THE MALAGASY ENVOYS.—The members of the Embassy from the Queen of Madagascar, who arrived in Liverpool on Monday, were taken to the public museum, and were much pleased to find Madagascar represented in the collection. Subsequently they visited the Free Public Library, the Walker Art Gallery, and St. George's-hall, after which they visited the Mayor at the Town-hall. The Chief Ambassador, replying to a short address of the Mayor, spoke in his own language, which was interpreted by the Rev. W. C. Pickersill. He said that they were sure that the Liverpool people were not those who needed to be told where Madagascar was, for their ships went forth to every harbour in the world. Referring to the Government of Madagascar, he said that the great difficulty they had to contend with was the uncivilized and unsettled state of the subject tribes on the coast, always at war with one another, and constantly robbing and ill-treating the white travellers who fell into their hands. For this the Government had the blame, and the Ambassador took the opportunity of saying that the Government was not at all helpless, but that the commerce of that world-famed port with the silent rivers and empty harbours of his own land. In the evening the Ambassadors were the guests of Mr. Croft, Prince's-park. On Tuesday they visited the Museum, the North Shore Mills, the engine works of Messrs. James Jack and Co., the Gun Steamship *Alaska*, Messrs. Laird's shipbuilding yard, the Liverpool Exchange Newsroom, and Messrs. Croft Brothers' tobacco works. In the evening they dined at Mr. J. Oliver Jones and a select party at the Reform Club.

THE FLOODS ON THE CONTINENT.

DESTRUCTION OF A TOWN AND VILLAGES.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Tuesday night:—
The Hungarian town of Raab, a place of twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and known as a great centre of the corn export trade, has to-day been completely inundated, together with the whole of the adjacent valley and numerous villages in the vicinity. The Danube here forms two large islands, the larger and smaller Schuetz, and other smaller ones. Most places on these islands, with the large park in which stands the Raab Theatre, are entirely covered with water, and abandoned by the inhabitants. During the past week the water was rising continually, and the level was then at least ten feet above that of the lower street. The inhabitants of all exposed houses were ordered to keep in readiness for instant flight. Not till the 5th could the Mavencers again breathe more freely, when their hallooed foe began to withdraw his forces slowly, after a siege of eight days and nights.
In the immediate vicinity of Mayence the floods attained unparalleled extent. The embankments which had been broken by the November floods being still unrepai, the water extended over the country for miles both above and below, and the villages of Bodenheim, Nackenheim, Lachenheim, Mommach, were once more severely ravaged. Further down the Rhine, Bingen was also inundated, although the Nahe, after rising five feet on December 29th, did not attain the great height of November. At Kuesheim, on the right bank of the Rhine, the water of the station upwards was flooded, and only passable by boats. The Cahn was only one foot lower than last November, and parts of Limburg, the market square at Diez, and parts of Ems became inundated. From Oberlainstein downward, the railroad line to Treisdorf along the right bank of the Rhine was deeply submerged. The Moselle at Metz was five inches higher than in Nov., and actually surpassed the hitherto greatest height of 1880. The surrounding country was flooded for miles and the entire valley up to the French frontier formed a great lake. Some of the barracks, and next summer many an English tourist will wonder at the high-water mark of 1883 at the landing stages. At Neuwied, which suffered so severely in November, all but about 70 houses in the whole town were again flooded, and at Cologne all the streets near the river were naturally again inundated. Zoological Gardens became submerged for a second time, and although many valuable animals had been removed, the water caused great losses. In the hot-houses many plants were destroyed, as the water put out the furnaces.
It is impossible to glance at all the details of the catastrophe which has overtaken so great a part of Western Germany with all the force and effect of a national calamity. Now that the floods are gradually retreating the true extent of the terrible devastation they have caused will only begin to appear. Bridges, houses, and entire villages have been destroyed; highways, railways, dykes, and embankments broken and damaged; fruit trees, crops, winter supplies, fodder, furniture, household goods, and implements swept away; cattle, horses, pigs, and poultry, and even the game in the forests drowned; and the very fields have been denuded of leaves, and covered with sand and boulders; not to speak of the serious loss of valuable human lives.

MR. GLADSTONE'S HEALTH.

A correspondent telegraphing from Havard to the *Standard*, at nine o'clock on Tuesday morning, says:—I have just seen Mr. Gladstone, and the right hon. gentleman looks remarkably well. The morning is fine, but very cold, and the Prime Minister walked from the Castle to the church, a distance of about a third of a mile, without any coat or a woollen scarf. After calling at the church house, Mr. Gladstone, at half-past eight, attended Divine service, conducted by his son, the Rev. Stephen Gladstone. Mrs. Gladstone was also at church, accompanied by Mr. W. H. Gladstone, M.P., and the Rev. Mr. Gladstone. Service being over, the Premier walked back to the Castle with his eldest son. The right hon. gentleman, so far as can be judged from appearances, is in remarkably good health. The Premier, I am informed at the Castle, passed a good night, getting a fair amount of sleep. In all probability he will go south at an early date. Nothing in the shape of bulletins is issued, there being, indeed, no necessity for them as there is no cause for anxiety.
Telegraphing from Tuesday afternoon the correspondent says:—I have paid a visit to the right hon. gentleman, and have seen Mrs. Gladstone, who informs me that Mr. Gladstone's absence from the Kent Audit this afternoon is felt necessary, as Dr. Clark's advice should be implicitly obeyed, and that the Premier should abstain from taking part in any public gathering, at least for a fortnight. All that is required is rest, and this the right hon. gentleman has determined to take. After returning from service the Premier remained in the Castle during the morning, but it is probable that in accordance with his usual custom he will take driving or walking exercise this afternoon. Mr. W. H. Gladstone will preside at the dinner to the tenants, of whom it is expected that there will be about 60 present. The special guard of constables told off to attend Mr. Gladstone when he goes out remains on duty at the Castle.
Callers at Downing-street were again informed on Tuesday that the Premier suffers from overwork, and requires a little rest and quiet.
"A correspondent of a Wigan paper writes:—There is at present staying with us a young lady whose birthday happens on the same day as Mr. Gladstone's. She has many very good wishes to make him a present on the anniversary of his birthday, but has refrained from doing so. Last year she was assailed by that dread disease which knows no cure (consumption). She put her desire in practice, and worked a bookmark in silk, with the motto, 'The Bible is our Guide,' and I wrote to Mr. Gladstone, and enclosed the bookmark at the same time explaining the reason why we thus presumed to address him. In reply, I received a letter from the Hon. G. W. Spencer-Littleton, and an autograph letter from Mr. Gladstone for the young lady. We also received, per rail, a box containing a choice selection of carnations and ferns, and some very fine English grapes, with a note from Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone for the young lady."
Mr. Gladstone's letter was as follows:—
"Howard Castle, Chester, January 11, 1883.
"Dear Madam, I am greatly touched by your kindness in having worked a bookmark for me under the circumstances at which you glance in your feeling and simple terms. May the bookmark which you are good enough to desire on my behalf avail you fully on every step of that journey in which, if I do not pre-empt, I cannot but shortly follow you.—I remain, dear madam, faithfully yours, W. E. GLADSTONE."

THE COLLISION OFF THE MERSEY.

The inquest on the body of Henry Wood, the carpenter, and John Weenne Young, second officer, of the *City of Brussels*, was opened at Birkenhead, on Tuesday, before Mr. Churton, coroner for the West Division of Cheshire.
Solicitors attended to watch the proceedings for the owners of the *City of Brussels* and the *Kirby Hall* and the relatives of the deceased. The coroner remarked that he would just say a word or two on the unusual importance of the case, involving as it did the loss of several lives as well as one of the Atlantic steamers forming the Inman Line. The vessel itself had been in use about 13 years, and her career had been an unusually successful one, and he was sure that they must all regret her sudden destruction. They would agree with him that the investigation should be as thorough as possible in order to meet the public requirements of the case. He did not see that there were any navigation questions of importance to be investigated, as the disaster took place in a dense fog. When inquiries had been protracted day after day for a considerable length of time, it usually happened that the question of navigation formed a part of the difficulty; but that difficulty did not appear to arise in that case. He did not see any necessity for delaying the inquiry for any length of time, and therefore suggested that it should be proceeded with next morning at 11 o'clock.
Mr. Dickenson, for the owners of the *City of Brussels*, said—As you, no doubt, are aware, there are two actions pending about the loss of the *City of Brussels*. I appear for the owners of the vessels of the Inman Line, and we have as far as possible made arrangements with the authorities on the other side. Deprecating the circumstances of the case being gone into any further than is absolutely necessary for the purposes of the inquest, we would respectfully ask you to omit all particulars not directly affecting the issue.
Mr. Blackley, for the relatives of the deceased, said—That may be all very well for the owners of the vessels, but what about the relatives of those people who lost their lives? There must be the fullest investigation.
The coroner: I cannot entertain the application at all.
Evidence of identification having been taken, the inquiry was adjourned until this morning at 11 o'clock.

It is stated that a claim has been made by the Inman Steamship Company against the owners of the *Kirby Hall* for £250,000 for the loss of the *City of Brussels*, and that, on the other hand, the owners of the *Kirby Hall* claim £50,000 compensation for the damage done to that vessel.
The body of one of the two Italian steamer passengers drowned has been recovered by a diver.

Mr. Edward B. Haynes, bar-keeper on board the sunken steamer, has written the following account of the disaster:—"On Sunday morning, about 6.30 a.m., I awoke to find the ship stopped by a dense fog, and began to think with despair that all our expectations of having our New Year's Sunday dinner at home were to be blighted. Shortly, I felt a violent crash, and was thrown backwards and forwards in my room. In an instant I rushed on deck, and was there told that the ship had been run into. I went to render such assistance I could to lower the boats. There was a scene truly terrible, yet one that would make the heart of an Englishman in his calmer moments glow with pride. Passengers with only the things they stood up in came rushing on deck one by one, but the most orderly order prevailed. The women, of whom there were few, calmly awaited the lowering of the boats without even a shriek; while the male passengers assisted in procuring life-belts and cheering on everybody they came in contact with. Immediately the boats were lowered the women were all safely put into them, and afterwards all the male passengers. Then the crew endeavoured to save themselves. As each boat was filled it pushed off from the ship's side, and before they had all got well clear of the ship we could see by the forward light she was finally commencing to sink. There yet remained several on board whose piercing shouts for help were truly heart-rending, but before any could be done a sharp report was heard, and one of the noblest ships that ever sailed the ocean went down head first. Immediately we lost sight of the ship, we pulled in the order of the shouts of our comrades in the other boats, who were making for the ship which had caused such dire destruction. In a few minutes the *Kirby Hall* loomed up in the fog, and soon our human freight was safely entrusted to the care of the crew of that ship. As were the four boats, which were picked up and immediately went back to the scene of the wreck, in the hope of saving others who might be still struggling in the water. Though we were unaware of the fact, our comrades had acted in a like manner before us, and had rendered all the assistance possible. From our comrades we received all particulars. The captain, boatman, and several others were found clinging to a boat spar. The captain nobly requested them to save the others before him. They were soon got into the boats and safely put on board the *Kirby Hall*, and the crew of that ship were all safely put on board. Many of our comrades will ever remain fresh in my memory. But the two men who had so short a time before so gallantly hastened the lowering boats into the water to save others now lay lifeless on the steamer's deck. The weather-beaten sailor who, perhaps, had not shed a tear for years, stood over the bodies of their officers, and the tears rolled down their cheeks as they gazed upon the faces of those whom they had learnt to esteem so truly."

MORE DISASTERS AT SEA.

Lloyd's agent at Cochin telegraphs under date of the 9th of January, 11.35 a.m., that the ship *British Empire*, bound from Shields to Bombay, was hauled to sea on the 31st of January off Alleppey. Ten persons were saved. Two boats, one with the captain and five hands, and the other with the chief officer and nine hands on board, are missing. The *British Empire* was a vessel of 1,414 tons. She was hauled at Cochin in 1863, and owned by Messrs. Hughes and Co. of Liverpool. Another collision occurred off Liverpool on Tuesday. The brigantine *Guess* was forced by a strong current across the bows of a steamer lying at anchor off New Brighton, and sank almost immediately. The crew was saved by climbing on board the steamer. The *Guess* was a vessel of 100 tons, and was bound for Harbourside, when it was struck by the steamer *Stanley*, cutting her down to the water's edge. The *Stanley* returned to the dockyard for repairs. The *Advent* is also much damaged.

THE BRADFORD DISASTER.—The inquest on the bodies of those who lost their lives in the disaster at Bradford, on the 28th ult., was resumed on Tuesday morning. Mr. Cox, the borough surveyor, said that he had the slightest intimation respecting the condition of the chimney. There was no chimney inspector engaged by the Corporation, and there was no periodical inspection. The police and the building inspector made reports when they saw defects. Mr. David Little, solicitor to the late Sir H. W. Ripley, spoke to the chimney having been erected more than twenty years ago, under the direction of the late baronet. He was aware that the structure was insecure, and several days previously to the disaster the trustees had a consultation upon its condition. It was under repair at the time it fell. The inquiry was adjourned. Her Majesty has telegraphed a message of sympathy with the sufferers.

EXTRAORDINARY SCENE IN AN IRISH COURT.

An exciting scene took place on Monday in the court-house of Castlebar during the sitting of the Land Sub-Commission. Mr. Denis Duffy, who presided at the Islandside land meeting, made some grave charges against Mr. James Daly, the proprietor of a local paper. Whereupon it is said he was struck with a stick, and some of his men were summoned, when according to Mr. Duffy's statement, Mr. Daly publicly, and in the presence of the police, denounced him as a member of the Land League and of the assassination society. Mr. Duffy gave immediate instructions to his solicitor to bring an action for assault and an action for £500 for the slander.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 11—12, 1883.

END OF THE DUAL CONTROL.

The news which we publish from Egypt marks the end of that much-praised and much-blamed institution, the Dual Control. On Monday morning Lord Dufferin informed the Egyptian Ministry that, "in reply to their request, the British Government had consented to withdraw from the financial arrangement by which the Control was established, and shortly afterwards Sir Auckland Colvin tendered his resignation to the Khedive, who accepted it. The "expressions of personal regret" employed by His Highness will be echoed by all those who have watched Sir Auckland Colvin's skill and constancy in the performance of his difficult task. Nor need there be any grudging recognition of the great benefits—benefits described by our Cairo Correspondent as "incalculable"—which during the three and a half years of its existence the Control has conferred on the Egyptian people. It has introduced a method and an order into the administration which before had been as unknown to the officials at Cairo as it was to their victims, the fellahs. It has actually saved the latter two millions in interest. It has given some regularity to the visits of the tax-gatherer, and told the peasant what and when he is to pay. From this rudimentary reform has come, as our Correspondent remarks, all the fitness for political freedom which the Egyptian native as yet possesses. In the actual amount of money saved to the Egyptian Government the Control has been worth a great deal. The two instances given this morning of the Reports on the recent economies in the Egyptian Treasury and on the finances of the War Department under Arabi, are strikingly to the point in this respect. On the one hand we have, in the Treasury Department alone, a saving of £28,000; on the other hand, 35,000 unverified vouchers, revealing the most hopeless disorganization, have been found among the papers at the War Ministry. The contrast between European and native management is clearly brought out by such a pair of instances. If this were the only aspect under which the Control could be viewed, its disappearance would be matter for lamentation. But, indeed, if it were all that the Control implied, its disappearance would not have been necessary. Unfortunately, however, as every one now admits, the Control had become, by the mere force of circumstances, a political as well as, or rather than, a financial institution. The interference of the Controllers with the affairs of Egypt could not long be confined to financial matters; it became political in the widest sense of the term. That this is so is not only implicitly, but openly, confessed by all the numerous French defenders of the Control. "It is understood," says the *Republique Française*, "that M. Ducloux has endeavoured to separate the political interests of France in Egypt from the financial interests of our countrymen"—and to demand the maintenance of the Control, or some equivalent, with the avowed object of maintaining those political interests. It is the political character which the Control has inevitably assumed that has made the British Government determine upon its abolition. Sir Auckland Colvin, before handing in his resignation, wrote to his French colleagues an amiable letter of farewell. England in general will do the same to France in this matter; and France, we make no doubt, will after a while accept the new position into which the events of the past six months have forced both herself and us. From Egypt we hear that England, Austria, Germany, Belgium, and Holland have accepted the proposal of the Egyptian Government that the International Tribunal should be prolonged for one year only. This, as every one knows, is an indispensable preliminary to that thorough re-organization of the administration of justice which is in contemplation, and is admitted to be necessary. At present, as we have more than once explained, that administration is rendered most difficult by the peculiar circumstances of the case. The International Tribunal has civil jurisdiction only; questions of police affecting Europeans must be dealt with under the Capitulations, in the court of the Consul of the nationality to which the offender belongs. Thus an English commander can take no steps to interfere with a low-class European, an Italian or a Greek, who may be injuring the English troops, unless he can get the consent of the Italian or Greek Consul. It is plain that such a system, valuable as a bulwark against Oriental maladministration, is quite inapplicable when the authority of a European State is in any way substituted for that of the native Government. In other words, the Capitulations must be abolished; and it is evident that this measure will accompany or precede the reform of the international civil tribunals which is announced to be in progress. But this is the very thing which is on the point of being done in Tunis, the French Government being about to seek Parliamentary ratification for the treaty of last July, by which the Bey agreed to the abolition of the Capitulations and to the substitution of a French Court for the various existing jurisdictions. The consent of England must be asked to this, as that of other Powers has already been asked; and England will certainly be quick to do what Austria, Germany, and

in this case Russia, have done, and to give her consent. The most logical nation in Europe will surely not be long in recognizing the fact that the same arguments which lead England to assent to French arrangements in Tunis must lead France to assent to English arrangements in Egypt, and to acquiesce in the final extinction of the Dual Control.—*Times*.

The following is the despatch of the *Times* correspondent at Cairo referred to above:—

CAIRO, JAN. 11.
Lord Dufferin has to-day informed the Ministry that, in reply to their request, the British Government consents to withdraw from the financial arrangement by which the Control was established. The Note also raises a question as to the advisability of appointing a European financial adviser, who would not interfere with the public administration of the country. The Joint Control, established by the consent of the three Powers, is thus annulled by the voluntary withdrawal of two of them from the compact. During the three and a half years of its existence it has conferred incalculable benefit on the people of Egypt; and, if any degree of self-government is now possible, it is due to the system they have introduced and the example they have set. The fellahs have to thank them for a diminution in the burden of the interest payable by two millions sterling; and, while steadily fighting against any encroachment on the part of the foreign bondholders, they have practically recouped them the loss of interest by the increased value given to stock by their administration. The fault of the Joint Control lay in the fact that its continued usefulness was contingent on a succession of propitious accidents. Sir Auckland Colvin this morning waited on the Khedive and tendered his resignation, which the Khedive accepted, with many expressions of personal regret. Prior to taking this step, Sir A. Colvin addressed a letter to his French colleague, stating that his Government having signified its withdrawal from the arrangement, he was compelled to resign; but he desired first to inform his colleague of his intention, and he thanked him for the extremely cordial consideration which he had evinced under trying circumstances. Mr. Ormiston, Second Secretary to the Control, also resigned. Two papers which were lately published illustrated in a striking manner the service rendered to Egypt by European administration. One is a report by Mr. FitzGerald on the economies effected in the Budget of 1880 as amounting to £28,000 in four years. The second is a report on the finances of the War Department under Arabi's administration. It shows that the system adopted was to pass the accounts on to the Treasury as audited, in order to keep up to time, and to leave the examination until a more favourable opportunity, with the result that more than 35,000 vouchers which have not been verified were discovered at the War Ministry. It is now proposed to place the financial part of this administration under the Treasury.

IMPOLICY IN EGYPT.

If the English Government were to base its policy on the recommendations of the *Standard*, that period of misunderstanding which would not only be inevitable, it would be a bid fair to be eternal. Few more injudicious articles than those which our contemporary has been publishing of late about Egypt have appeared in the English press. When Gambetta died it exultingly declared, in the hearing of all France, that, now the greatest Republican was dead, we no longer need pay any heed to the remonstrances of the Republic. As if this were not enough to make French statesmen determine to prove that the death of Gambetta has not weakened the Republic by increasing the obstinacy of their *non possimus*, they are told now, with almost incredible maladroitness, that "the claim of political influence in Egypt must be classed with the claim to Alsace-Lorraine, and such claims can hardly be regarded as strengthening the general position of France in the world." In other words, so far as Egypt is concerned, Tel-el-Kebir was a Republican Sedan, and England steps into line with Germany as the enemy of France. We may be sure that the English Government will steer clear of such suicidal talk as this. Even if they inclined to make Egypt an English dependency, the further they were inclined to go in that direction the more sedulously would they avoid the wanton provocations of French *amour propre* of which these afford such lamentable examples. The problem before us in Egypt is difficult enough without being aggravated in this fashion. The Dual Control is past praying for, but its interest will be much more speedily and smoothly effected if militant journalists do not tender susceptibility of our late partner. All this talk of monopolising the advantages reaped by "our energy, our daring, and our sacrifices" is as mistaken as the advice to imitate the policy of France in Tunis is unsound. We have a position of responsibility in Egypt, and we are not going to endanger it by flaunting in the face of all the Powers our determination to exploit Egypt single-handed for our own gain. The Dual Control, every Power in Europe, excepting France, recognises as bad. It was tolerated so long as it was effective. France is the only power which would even tolerate its resurrection now that it has finally and irrevocably broken down. There are few sacrifices that we would not make to preserve cordial relations with our neighbour across the Channel, but not even for the sake can we assent to offend all the other Powers, and to curse the Egyptians by saddling their Government with an unworkable arrangement. But there is nothing "single-handed" or anti-French about that. Like all other points in the re-settlement of Egypt, its removal, although initiated by England, will ultimately receive the sanction of European authority. Short of absolute annexation, no other course is possible.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE SALISBURY ELECTION PETITION.—An application was made to Master Bennett at chambers on Thursday by Mr. Pitt Lewis on behalf of Colonel Kennard (the sitting member), the respondent in the impending election petition at Salisbury, with respect to the security required to be lodged for the costs of the petition. The security required by statute is £1,000, and this had been given by the recognisances of Messrs. William Whitehouse and George Read to the amount of £500 each, and objection was now taken to the sufficiency of these gentlemen as sureties, both of whom are stated to be prosperous mercantile men in Salisbury. Mr. Yarborough Anderson, on behalf of the petitioner, called the two sureties as witnesses, and their evidence showed that both of them were men of large property. The respondent's application was therefore dismissed, with costs.

THE DUBLIN POLICE FORCE.

Our Dublin correspondent reports that it is stated that Colonel Conolly, the Assistant-Commissioner of the Dublin Police, has resigned, and the resignation of Captain Talbot has already been announced. But something more than a change of Commissioners is required to make the Dublin Metropolitan Police adequate for its duties. The force is organised exactly like our own Metropolitan Police Force, but here in London there are no local authorities to whom the administration could be handed over, whereas Dublin has a corporation. Yet the corporation has absolutely no more control over the police than it has over the London police. The same must be said of the Constabulary, which is governed directly from Dublin Castle through county inspectors and sub-inspectors. The only local authorities who have any voice in its control are the resident magistrates, and they, as our readers are aware, are mere nominees of the Government. As a consequence the public opinion of Ireland has absolutely no influence with the police authorities, and to make the police really effective it will be necessary to give local authorities some control over the force. That of course cannot be done until the promised reform of local government in Ireland is effected; but in the meantime something can be attempted to render the force more efficient. At present the Constabulary is scattered over the face of the country in little stations, grouped round a central point, where resides the sub-inspector, who is subordinate to the county inspector-general in Dublin. The sub-inspector is selected by competitive examination, and is usually a young man, without experience or capacity to deal with difficult questions, and too much of his time is taken up in writing reports to the county inspector, and in answering questions sent down from the Castle. Yet he is often called upon to deal with matters which require great tact and a mature judgment. It is obvious that this system is utterly unsuited to the time and country. It reminds one of a conquered country, militarily occupied. Even so, it does not make the sub-inspector thoroughly acquainted with his men, nor enable him to see that they perform their duties regularly and zealously, while it wastes too much of his time in mere office work. Above all, it leaves to the constable in charge of a station, and to the sub-inspector, too much responsibility. The counties are too large for proper supervision, and it would be much better, and would tend greatly to increased efficiency, if the counties were split up into smaller and more manageable districts, and if the district inspectors were allowed more initiative. Centralisation has been carried so far that the sense of responsibility and of personal initiative has been almost destroyed. The change we suggest would unquestionably tend to increase the efficiency of the force, but it would not meet the real complaint brought against the Constabulary in Ireland, which is that the force is out of harmony with the people, and the people have no means of influencing its action. Until the local authorities are entrusted with at least a share in the management of the Constabulary, it is impossible that its full efficiency can be developed.—*Daily News*.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL.

A great misfortune has befallen "Peterborough the Proud," once the most famous of all the abbey churches of the Fen Country, and highly valued by the Englishmen of to-day as one of the noblest specimens of Norman architecture that the kingdom can boast. The grand central tower at the intersection of the nave and eastern transept of this fine cathedral, built by Abbot de Waterville early in the twelfth century, and forming then a lantern of four stages, has from its earliest days contained a weak spot, in the opinion of all architects consulted about it, and now the actual collapse of the lantern tower is threatened. Hopes for some time existed that the restoration successfully carried out at St. Alban's could be effected at Peterborough. For years past propping and binding have been tried, but with little material effect. The most celebrated of our cathedral architects, including the late Sir Gilbert Scott, have had their worst fears confirmed; and now, with a view to public safety, and to avoid the disaster that recently occurred at Chichester, where the spire fell one day bodily into the cloisters, the Dean and Chapter have been compelled to order the removal of the tottering lantern. Indeed, steps preparatory to taking down the tower have been pressed forward; two huge steam cranes will soon be set to work; it has been decided to close to the public all the cathedral except the western end of the nave; and it will be the duty of modern architects to show how far they can imitate or improve upon the mighty work of the monks of old. The history of this central tower of Peterborough is curious enough. Soon after its erection it proved too heavy for the central piers to support; and the original architects, dreading a repetition of the fall of the towers at Ely and Winchester, resolved partially to destroy it. Accordingly it was taken down as far as the crowns of the great arches; the eastern and western arches were altered from semi-circular to pointed; and only the Norman arches, which have chevron mouldings, were retained. The existing lantern—now doomed—dates from about 1340, and is decorated in style, with two lofty windows on each side. The wooden vaulting, as well as the lightness of the entire lantern, were no doubt rendered necessary from the Norman tower had already caused to the south-eastern pier, which for many years has been much crippled and bound with iron. This is no new story; for at least ten years ago it was reported that "the great pillars on the east side have settled very considerably on their foundations, dragging down their adjoining triforium and clerestory arches in a remarkable manner." Originally the tower of Peterborough was surmounted by a wooden octagon, which perhaps bore, or was intended to bear, a timber spire covered with lead. The octagon was, however, removed by Dr. Kipling, who became Dean of Peterborough in 1798. The turrets which rise above the tower were added at this time, and were evidently imitated from those at the end of the great transept. But the present demolition and reconstruction are by far the most important that have ever befallen the fine old abbey church with its adjacent monastery, well known throughout the

land as the burial-place of Henry VIII., Queen Katharine of Arragon, the temporary grave of Mary Queen of Scots, and containing the most violent record of any cathedral in England of the brutality and vandalism of Cromwell's soldiers.—*Daily Telegraph*.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

The *Daily Telegraph*, referring to the acceptance of certain proposals made by the English Government with regard to the Suez Canal, whereby it shall be rendered neutral and open to all nations, may lose nothing thereby. The project simply transfers all fighting from the Canal and its banks to the open seas, where, as a great Naval Power, we are strong:—
It may be said that in time of war our antagonists or their allies would not respect this arrangement; the Russians, the French, the Turks, or the Egyptians would seize and block the Canal. In that case, however, the Treaty would also cease to bind us; and we should then be as free as now to land a force and clear the road. But while all the belligerents respected the neutral character of the channel, we feel to see what we could lose by not fighting at Port Said, opposite Ismailia, or at Suez. If in the last resort it may be urged, the proposed plan had been in force Lord Wolsley would have lost his selected base; but we were not technically "at war" in Egypt; we merely lent an army to the Khedive to put down a rebellion; and restrictions on belligerents do not apply to a friendly soil. There would arise, of course, a peculiar difficulty if Egypt itself declared war against us; for then the neutral character of the Canal could not be respected. The same difficulty, however, would apply in the equally improbable case of a war between England and Belgium. England guarantees the independence and neutrality of that little country, but could not continue to do so if she herself elected to become a belligerent against us. The Canal will be declared free not for fighting but for peaceful passage to armaments of all nations, even in time of war. This it will be placed by express international agreement on the footing that neutral harbours are on now, by the comity and custom of the civilized world, but with this difference, that, while neutral harbours may be closed at present according to strict restriction, neither Turkey nor Egypt will be able to apply a corresponding closure to the Canal. Thus, in exchange for the self-denial of the Powers, Turkey will surrender a part of her local territorial rights.

THE PREMIER.

It was stated at Hawarden Castle on Thursday night that Mr. Gladstone's progress towards recovery had been somewhat checked by a fresh cold. In the delicate state of his health, perhaps, the open-air exercise which he has taken with the view of curing his sleeplessness at night has been too trying to his system, especially as the east winds have been blowing for several days past. It will be remembered that on Tuesday afternoon when the weather was bitterly cold he walked to Broughton Hall Station, a distance of five miles, in company with Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Russell, M.P., and Mr. Wickham, in order to spend a parting guest. On Wednesday after taking exercise in Hawarden-park he felt slightly depressed, and it was discovered that he had caught a fresh cold. He has since been confined to his room, and his apprehensions are entertained of protracted illness, and the family medical gentleman at Hawarden has not been summoned. Mrs. Gladstone left on Wednesday evening for Glasgow, to assist at the launch of Messrs. Donald Currie and Co.'s new steamer the *Hawarden Castle*.

The *Lancet* says:—"The nature of Mr. Gladstone's present indisposition is clear enough; and although it would be wrong to exaggerate its importance, it would be more so to ignore the lesson taught by it. Mr. Gladstone has been suffering from the lassitude that follows a cold, from sleeplessness, and other indications that follow slight nervous exhaustion. The sleeplessness is the more noticeable as, contrary to what one might expect, Mr. Gladstone is a good sleeper. There is every reason to believe that the cause of his protracted illness is an over-exhaustion of his nervous system, and that the lassitude will disappear. The public will owe a deep debt of gratitude to Dr. Clark if he will use his authority somewhat despotically. Mr. Gladstone is in a state of nervous exhaustion, and his health has been known before now to go to the House of Commons after the ordinary rigour of a pneumonia, and with a pyrexial temperature to leave his bed for a Cabinet meeting. These are excesses to be pardoned in a man moved by great forces, but which should be guarded against by the exercise of medical authority, and this, to Mr. Gladstone's credit, he has bowed to before with great national advantage, and will do so again."

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

THE QUEEN DROVE out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager Marchioness of Ely and her Majesty walked with Princess Beatrice this morning.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by Prince Albert Victor and Prince Arthur, arrived at Marlborough House from Sandringham on Thursday. Miss Knollys, the Hon. H. Tyrwhitt-Wilson, and Mr. Knollys were in attendance on their Royal Highnesses.

Sir Saul Samuel, K.C.M.G., Agent-General for New South Wales, presented to Prince Albert Victor and Prince George at Marlborough House on Thursday, on behalf of the Hon. Thomas Holt, member of the Legislative Council of that colony, some articles of colonial manufacture, in remembrance of their visit to his estate at the River Campsie, in the first landed in Australia.

The Duke and Duchess of Northumberland have arrived at Albury Park, Surrey, from Alnwick Castle.

The Duke and Duchess of Norfolk have left Alnwick Castle to visit the River Campsie, in the first landed in Australia.

Viscount and Viscountess Sidmouth and family have arrived in town from Up Ottery Manor, Devonshire.

Lord and Lady Lonsington and Hon. Violet Cochrane-Ballie are spending the winter at Rome.

Sir Patrick O'Brien, M.P., has left town for Egypt.

THE AFFGHAN FRONTIER.—We (*Morning Post*) have authority for stating that at Quetta and the British posts on the Afghan frontier the Government are quietly carrying out the policy of the late Conservative Government. There are no signs of abandoning the Pishan Valley, though it is strictly Afghan territory. Quetta is rapidly becoming an important place, and the Government is purchasing land there from the Khan of Khelat, which does not look like abandoning the place. A high-level road is being constructed at great expense through the Bolan Pass, and the engineers are again surveying the railway line.

THE GHOST OF AN IRISH MURDERER.—A statement is current in Galway, and is gaining credence among the superstitious, that the ghost of Myles Joyce, the man who cleared his innocence of participation in the Maamtrasna massacre on the scaffold last month, is seen nightly around and within the prison of Galway. Two soldiers, it is said, were visited while on guard outside the gaol last night or two ago by a tall, mysterious figure, who laid hold of their rifles. The matron and warders have, it is further said, applied for a transfer.

THE LAKE COURTS.

THE COMMENCEMENT OF HILARY SITTINGS.

The Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand, which Her Majesty recently opened, were used for the first time for the public sittings of the different Courts on Thursday:—

In consequence of so many judges being required on circuit, only a few courts sat:—one Court of Appeal, the Court of the Lord Chief Justice, two Courts for the purpose only of delivering judgments in cases which had already been argued, the Court of Probate and Divorce, and the Admiralty Court. With regard, at least, to those whose attendance was necessary, polite officials guided them to their respective destinations on coming into the hall, and as all the courts are, as is well known, arranged on a systematic plan, there was no difficulty in finding them out. There seemed to be a general concurrence as to the darkness of the passages, and, with some exceptions, the darkness of the courts, which was increased by the foggy and dull atmosphere. At half-past ten Mr. Justice Field and Mr. Justice Williams sat to deliver among other judgments one in *Bradlaugh v. Erskine*, and the court was crowded, especially by members of the Bar, anxious to hear the result. The principal centre, however, was the Court of the Lord Chief Justice, which is occupied, and a large number of counsel had to content themselves with standing on the floor. The Lord Chief Justice entered first, and, having to the Bar, who rose as his appearance, took his seat, and the following Mr. Justice Manisty and Baron Pollock. Each judge sat in a chair, there being no seat along the Bench, as in the courts at Westminster; and thus when Mr. Justice Stephen came in unrobed, when he finished his own business in an adjoining court, he stood behind Mr. Justice Manisty. The learned judge surveyed the scene with considerable interest, and remained for a long time. It was known that a motion was to be made by the Attorney-General against the *Times* for libel, in connection with the Chamberlain and Boyd case, and also that a rule would be made for a new trial in *Belt v. Lawes*, which has so recently occupied public attention.

Lord Coleridge, on taking his seat on the Bench, said, addressing the Bar: "In taking out seats in this new court for the first time, I do not propose to make any general observations as to the change of place, because all such general observations have been made in a manner which I shall in vain attempt to imitate by my noble and learned friend the Lord Chancellor, on the only two occasions when I have been pleased to declare the courts open. I wish to say only two things before beginning the business of the day—first of all that we have left Westminster Hall, but I trust we have not left behind us the traditions of Westminster Hall, that the traditions of the old building will follow us into this new habitation; and especially may I say that the unbroken traditions since I have known it of mutual dependence and harmony between the Bench and the Bar will continue unbroken—relations without which the Bench and the Bar would cease to be what they are, and the Bench would find it impossible to discharge their important functions. One other thing, and one other thing only, I venture to say. We are actually in a state of transition, and it may well be that at this moment and for some time to come we shall experience the difficulties and inconveniences necessarily attendant on that state of transition. I trust that the Bar, who are fully aware of the circumstances, and the public, who may not be, will recognise the immense amount of good work done within a few weeks, and since we last met, and that both exercise the excellent virtue of patience."

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE "TIMES" AND THE "OBSERVER."

The Attorney-General, with whom was Mr. Crump, said he had to bring before their Lordships' notice a matter arising out of the action for spoken slander or libel, and to ask on the part of the plaintiff for a rule calling upon the publisher of the *Times* newspaper to show cause why he should not be dealt with for contempt of court for the manner in which that newspaper had commented on the case of Chamberlain v. Boyd, which came before the court in December last, when an application was made to the Bench with respect to the case. The Attorney-General said that the article complained of was likely to have a great effect, and bias or prejudice the plaintiff on the trial of the cause, and influence the jury in favour of the defendant. The libel had been referred to certain proceedings which took place at the Reform Club, which led to the rejection of the plaintiff as a member of that club.

Lord Coleridge: Take a rule.

The Attorney-General then moved for a similar rule against the *Observer* for publishing a leading article on the same subject.

Lord Coleridge: Take a rule.

BRADLAUGH V. ERSKINE.

Mr. Justice Field, sitting with Mr. Justice Watkins Williams, gave judgment in the case in which Mr. Bradlaugh, M.P. for Northampton, sued the Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Commons for assault in removing him from the House on the 3d of August, 1881, and which was argued at the close of the last sittings. The case came before the court not on its merits, but on a question of demurrer by the plaintiff to certain portions of the statement of defence. Mr. Justice Field, in giving judgment, said the defendant admitted that on the occasion in question he did what in itself amounted to an assault, but sought to justify it on the ground that he acted in obedience to an order from the House requesting him to remove the plaintiff from the House, and that the defendant was further to disturb its proceedings. Mr. Bradlaugh, on the other hand, held that the House had no power to prevent a duly elected member taking the oath and his seat, as he was endeavouring to do when the assault complained of was committed. The plaintiff therefore held that the order itself was unlawful. The Attorney-General contended that while every court in the country had a right to control its own proceedings, and was the sole judge as to what was or was not contempt, surely the same right could not be denied to the House of Commons, the highest court in the realm. It was not to be presumed, of course, that any court would do that which in itself was wrong; but his lordship, having referred to some of the authorities which the Attorney-General had cited in his argument, said he was of opinion that that argument was an answer to the plaintiff's objections, and that his demurrer must be overruled. Judgment was therefore given for the defendant, with costs.

BELT V. LAWES.

In the Queen's Bench Division, Mr. Charles Russell, Q.C. (with whom were Mr. Webster, Q.C., and Mr. Lewis, Q.C.), moved for a rule calling upon the defendant to show cause why he should not be dealt with for contempt of court for the manner in which that newspaper had commented on the case of Chamberlain v. Boyd, which came before the court in December last, when an application was made to the Bench with respect to the case. The Attorney-General said that the article complained of was likely to have a great effect, and bias or prejudice the plaintiff on the trial of the cause, and influence the jury in favour of the defendant. The libel had been referred to certain proceedings which took place at the Reform Club, which led to the rejection of the plaintiff as a member of that club.

Lord Coleridge: Take a rule.

AN ELECTRIC LIGHTING COMPANY WOUND UP.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the members of the Devon and Cornwall Electric Lighting Company (Limited), held at Cannon-street Hotel on Wednesday, it was unanimously resolved to consent to an order being made for the winding up of the company on a petition which had been presented by a shareholder.

PARIS: PRICE 40 CENTIMES.

OUT OF PARIS: 45 CENTIMES.

LAUNCH OF THE "HAWARDEN CASTLE."

There was successfully launched on Thursday from the shipbuilding yard of Messrs. John Elder and Co., Glasgow, a large steamer, built to the order of Messrs. Donald Currie and Co. for the Castle Mail Packet Company's South African service. Unusual interest attached to the ceremony from the fact that the vessel was christened the *Hawarden Castle* by Mrs. Gladstone, who made a special visit to Glasgow in order to discharge this duty. In a few weeks Messrs. Elder will launch a sister ship to the *Hawarden Castle*, to be named the *Norman Castle*. The dimensions of the new vessels are as follows:—Length on water line 380ft., length over all 392ft. 6in., breadth 48ft., depth 30ft., with a gross tonnage of about 4,300 tons. Each vessel is divided into nine principal watertight compartments; several of the compartments are also subdivided by partial watertight bulkheads, extending to the hold beams, forming ballast tanks. Provision has been made for several hundred tons of water ballast, in order to secure regularity of trim. The grand saloon, placed in the midship portion of the ship, just abaft the engine-room, is about 44ft. square, and is finished in a classic style, specially designed. The principal woods used in the decorations are walnut and oak. All the entrances and corridors, saloon, smoking saloon, ladies' boudoir, captain's cabin, chart room, engine room, etc., are fitted with electric lights on the incandescent principle. Over the after-decks, and extending right to the taffrail and over the full breadth of the vessel, is fitted a hurricane deck, forming an extensive promenade for the sale use of the first-class passengers. The second-class saloon and state rooms are arranged forward of the machinery space. Accommodation is provided for about 190 first-class and 160 second-class passengers. These vessels carry the large number of ten boats, eight of which are lifeboats of very large dimensions. Steam steering gear of the best and strongest type is fitted on the bridge-deck, together with hand-gear, which can be used should the steam-gear become disabled. As an additional safeguard, powerful screw-steering apparatus, with double wheels, is fitted aft. The engines are compound, inverted, direct acting, of the most improved type, indicating nearly 4,000-horse power. In addition to the *Hawarden Castle* and the *Norman Castle* the Castle Packet Company are building steamers of the aggregate tonnage of about 14,000 tons, and 1,000-horse power, all of which will be ready for sea early in the spring. After the launch the company adjourned to the engineering office at Fairfield, where luncheon was served. Sir Donald Currie, M.P., in proposing the health of Mr. Gladstone, said the following telegram:—"Mr. Gladstone thanks you for your telegram. He slept well last night." Mr. Herbert Gladstone, M.P., said Mrs. Gladstone had undertaken the duty which she had performed that day in connection with other obligations in a different part of Scotland, but which had been unavoidably postponed. Mrs. Gladstone, however, could not deny herself the pleasure of coming to Glasgow to undertake the launching of the magnificent vessel which was now floating in the Clyde. He concluded by proposing "Prosperity to the new vessels, and the health of Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Molteno and Mr. Walter Pearce, South Africa, both of whom replied. Other toasts followed.

THE RESTORATION OF CETEWAYO.

The Maritzburg correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphed on Thursday:—Telegrams to me from your Special Commissioner have been refused at the Lower Tugela office because they were not sanctioned by the staff officers. This is a colonial telegraph office under military charge. Colonel Gurney has since told your correspondent that all letters must be submitted to Major Essex. Whatever military reason may be assigned for this is worthless, as I have in my possession a letter from Colonel Curtis stating that he is subject to superior authority with respect to Press matters. The independence of the press from the civil authorities, who are anxious that no independent information of the state of Zululand should reach England. Your correspondent further complained of the employment of special messengers for letters, bringing their falling into the hands of missionaries and others opposed to Cetewayo. Of the missionary so active in helping on Sir Bartle Frere's invasion, is specially hostile. As your Correspondent is known and trusted by the Bishop of Natal, he will surely rather the cause of this difficulty and hostility. His native messengers also seem to have been tampered with. All this will serve as a measure of the duplicity at work for official ends. It seems hopeless to expect any spark of honesty in dealing with the Zululand annexed territory. On inquiry why the King was taken from them, they were informed by Mr. John Shepherson that his duty was only to tell them what was done, not to answer questions. No official intimation has been given to the Zululand natives of the return of Cetewayo to the country, and they are to move and welcome him. This hesitation will be officially represented as hostility or indifference. All the Zululand Correspondents meet, however, rejoice at the restoration. The news seems too good to be true.

EMIGRATION FROM CANADA TO THE UNITED STATES.

Statistics recently published—announcing a large emigration from Canada to the United States—are not accepted as correct by the Canadian Government. Similar statistics have formed the subject of official investigation from certain of the American railways, and figures were not to be relied upon. This was clearly demonstrated in a paper presented to the Imperial Parliament last session, containing a report made to the Governor-General of Canada by the Canadian Department of Agriculture and Immigration. It was known that a large number of emigrants travel yearly to the United States by way of Canadian ports who never intend to remain in the Dominion, that settlers going to Manitoba and the Northwest Territories have paid up to the present time to pass over the border, and that a considerable movement takes place between the two countries for commercial purposes and for ordinary travel. But such persons, although apparently included in the statistics referred to, cannot with accuracy be described as emigrants from Canada to the United States.

A VEIN OF ZINC ORE IN DERBYSHIRE.—An

important discovery has been made in connection with the Magpie lead mines, in the High Peak of Derbyshire. In driving a level vein of blende (zinc ore) has been discovered, which promises to be of great value to the company. The manager, before incurring expenditure, recommended the directors to allow him to test this vein by driving into it. A little has been done, and the result proves that the vein gets wider and wider the further the miners go. So large a deposit has never before been met with. Preparations are now being rapidly made for working the vein, and the shareholders, who are chiefly Sheffield investors, anticipate a rich reward for years of profitless working.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—On Thursday morning a destructive fire occurred in the extensive linen manufactory of Richardson and Niven, Lisburn, Ireland, resulting in the total demolition of a large part of the mills. The factory was untouched, but the valuable machinery and a large amount of stock were destroyed. The damage may be estimated at £30,000, which, fortunately, is covered by insurance. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. Several hundred hands will be thrown out of work by the fire.

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aging in London. The particular case referred to in the remark was an ordinary one enough. A group of rowdies having gone into a shop and attacked a clerk, he had the good sense to get out and find the counter. It was, of course, merely a piece of fun, and the funny fellows were considerably surprised at being sentenced to pay the expenses of the case, and to do so in the usual way. It is devoutly to be wished that all the authorities concerned would show a similar determination to suppress the more dangerous phases of civil war exhibited by the Londoners. The London Volunteer Army. Meanwhile it is satisfactory to note that a decisive victory was scored on Wednesday over several of the bands of freebooters who have been carrying the war of late into the streets of London. The enemy had been seen on the south side of the river. Ten were by no means taken and captured, and they were usually shown to prisoners of war. On the contrary, five of them were sentenced to five years' penal servitude and twenty lashes from the cat, while on the other five Mr. Justice Hawkins had reserved sentence. These sentences of the court of law do not seem at first sight the best way of extinguishing the civil war, but unfortunately a man who has been flogged once generally gets to be flogged again. — *Pail Mail Gazette*.

PARIS: PRICE 40 CENTIMES
OUT OF PARIS: 45 CENTIMES

—The inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Sarah Wright, sixteen years of age, daughter of a labourer, who died suddenly on the 14th of December last, at Wrotham, Kent, was resumed on Thursday.

PARIS, TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1883.

No. 21,082 —FOUNDED 1814

The Royalists of France must be credited with some capacity to apprehend accomplished facts; and there can surely be few of them who are not conscious that if Henry Cinq were, by some extraordinary turn of the wheel, brought to the head of affairs, he could by no possibility remain there, so long as modern France remains modern France. It is not a question whose principles are sound and whose unsound; though, for our part, we entertain little doubt that there is not much to choose between the principles avowed by thoroughgoing Legitimists and the principles proclaimed by extreme French Republicans. Neither of them will work for any world that is now known to us. But between the theory of Divine Right and the cardinal tenets of modern society there is an irreconcilable divergence, and the paving-stones of Paris, Marseilles, Lyons, Bordeaux, and scores of other places would be found to mutiny at the notification that a Government ruled over them in the name of the divine doctrine in which the Revolution was embodied in the phrase, the Will of the People. A military Dictator might crush such an insurrection, with the tacit approval of the quieter portion of the nation, in the same way that it was crushed by Louis Napoleon in 1851 and by Thiers and his Generals in 1871. But Kings by Divine Right somehow always lack the merciless hand. To their credit they do love their people sufficiently well to be unwilling to shed their blood in civil strife, and this reluctance is shared even by those Princes of their House who have cast aside the principle of Legitimism and who seek to govern with the aid of Constitutional principles. We have only to recall the conduct of Louis XVI., of Charles X., and of Louis Philippe, to see that Kings of the old pattern are unable or unwilling, without assistance from something, to put down an insurrection on a large scale. It requires the more unscrupulous Caesar either *in esse* or *in posse* to do what Kings would have done, and so would many of the men who were the soul of the Commune. Whatever the motive, whether it be want of self-confidence or traditional gentleness, certain it is that a Bourbon Prince has ever shown himself of whom it would be possible to fear that he would win a Throne by armed rebellion, or retain it by suppressing one. We are not surprised, therefore, that the more reasonable and trustworthy French papers treat what Royalist policy there may be as a specimen of drawn-out room trifling; nor must the French Government be astonished if people abroad regard all rumours upon that subject as convenient fiction for enabling it to ask further powers for the strengthening its own position. No dispassionate person would expect the action of any Government to expel a faction whose presence is considered dangerous to the safety of the State; and the fact that the persons named at the members of former reigning families does not alter the propriety of that course. At the same time, to ask such powers is a most damaging confession on the part of the Government that making it so. Our Government, for instance, applied to Parliament for even larger powers against Irish disloyalty, and Parliament granted the request. But most Englishmen feel heartily ashamed, as well as sorry, that it should have been found necessary. In the same way, the Republic must be in rather an unstable condition if it needs to be armed against a few individuals who, so far, have given no public reason to suppose that they are dangerous to the State, save that they are persons who might have a chance of governing France, if the present form of Government were to disappear. The retrograde into the Chamber of Deputies by M. Fallieres, being described as tyrannical; but it clearly testifies to the existence of deep-seated terror in Republican breasts. For that reason we cannot think that it is calculated to injure the Republic more than the persons against whom it is directed. If a "Pretender" is exiled, it can only be because he is dangerous; indeed, that is the very basis and argument of the Bill. But how can Pretender be dangerous unless he is popular? And is he likely to become popular because his popularity is acknowledged by a decree of exile? The proposal of M. Ballue to strike off the names of the Orleans Princes off the roll of the Army will be opposed by the Government, and will therefore hardly be carried. But it is possible that the Orleans Princes, whose conduct has appeared base to the Government Bill, and repassing of the Government Bill, and resigning their appointments, the Orleans Princes may be foolish, but have wisely. It will certainly go to the credit of the Government if they do to the credit of the Government if they do.

Manifesto

of Prince Napoleon is employed as an excuse for persecution against those who have no connection with him, who would certainly support the Executive, if necessary, in resisting his pretensions. Is it credible, moreover, that, even on supposition that a few ardent Legitimists have been playing at conspiracy and treason, the Orleans Princes would damage themselves by being participants in such folly? Even in France the

THE ACTION FOR BREACH OF PROMISE AS A LADY.—In the Queen's Bench Division on Friday, a conditional order for a new trial on the ground of insufficient damage was granted in the case of *Kingsley v. P. P. Kingsley*, in which the plaintiff, Miss P. P. Kingsley, a medical gentleman's daughter, had sued the defendant for breach of promise of marriage. The breach of promise was alleged to have occurred on the day the plaintiff's father died, when the defendant was found for the lady on a claim made by her against the defendant for £100 lent. Counsel for the defendant now said he would like to lead the matter in issue, and the defendant would forego her claim, and let each side bear their own costs, but this offer was refused.

and firmly he is sure to be unpopular; and if once disliked, where will be the power at his back? Appointed by the Egyptian Government as an Egyptian official he will be dismissed by the Khedive without enjoying even a right to protest. The very essence of that independent Government is that some Liberals demand for Egypt is a right to cashier its own generals—for instance, Sir Evelyn Wood and Baker Pasha—and to dismiss its financial advisers. Sir Auckland Colvin or Sir Rivers Wilsford. It is to enjoy this "independence" if it is to be a free State, will it be free to make blunders and to do wrong? If not, what becomes of the previous declaration of Lord Hartington that the "stable" or "settled" Government of the land is English because an Indian interest; and European influence and capital on the Nile must not be endangered, and that "British authority in Egypt must be respected." The two declarations do not hang together. Reading the one we find the Nile justified because Egypt cannot be left to itself. Reading the latter exposition of fancy we are dealing with the affairs of some State like Portugal, Denmark, Roumania, whose independence we respect even when exercising its freedom to its own hurt. The Government should elect between the two opposite propositions, but they can scarcely adopt the turn.—*Daily Telegraph.*

modification of the extensive scheme of structural alterations required by the Metropolitan Board of Works to be executed at the Covent Garden Theatre, the Promenade Concert season is compulsorily closed. During the next three months, delays of work will be occupied by night as well as day, in order that the alterations may be completed by the date of the commencement of the Italian Opera season. Two entirely new staircases will be made, reaching from the top of the building to the street. These outcrops will undoubtedly conduce to the public safety in case danger should arise from fire or panic. A nine-inch brick wall is to be built, reaching from the foundations to some inches above the roof, and forming a backing to the sides and roof of the proscenium.

The concerts given during the past week have been well supported, and have been worthy of praise. On Saturday night the programme was of the "miscellaneous" type customary on Saturdays, including orchestral selections from *Il Trovatore*, Gorman, *Il M. St. Pansore*; the ballet music from *Gounod's Faust*; the overtures to *Zampa* and *Semiramide*; the Andante and Finale of Beethoven's Violin Concerto (splendidly played by Mr. Carrouds), and a selection highly acceptable to musicians, besides a number of lighter description. Signor Tito Magli played, in his usual masterly style, his *Prelude e Tempo di Valzer* with orchestral accompaniment) and Thalberg's arrangement of "Home, Sweet Home." Mme. Hersee sang "Una voce poco fa" from *Il* in finished style, and afterwards introduced

The exhibition of the Society of Painters in Etching for the present year will be held in London on the 1st of March. All forms of engraving on metal, whether by the burin, etching needle, by mezzotint or aquatint, by whatever other process the artist may choose as a means of original expression, are understood to be included in the term "painter etching," and, subject to the approval of the Council, are eligible for exhibition whether the artist sending them be a Fellow or not. The works must be original and never before exhibited.

man and modern French history, but the
are few visitors to it; and Nice, Monte Carlo
and Mentone attract those who do not stop
short at Hyères, St. Raphael, and Cannes.
Nice is not nearly so full, all year, as Cannes,
usual; and the Riviera, from Gamberi to
ended by the race week, brought a great
many visitors to it for a short time. The
are now leaving, but the Carnival begins
soon that their places will soon be taken, and
I have no doubt that by the time the season
is over the hotel-keepers and tradespeople
will not be disappointed. The Carnival at
Gortschakoff is spending the winter at
Nice, as usual, and, considering his great age,
seems to be in very fair health. The English
colony at Monte Carlo is never very numerous,
not merely because the accommodation is
limited, but because some families dread
the temptation of the Casino, and others
the temptation of the people who observed that "it was
so easy not to write a tragedy in five acts as
in verse." It is equally easy not to enjoy
the splendid prospect and the enchanting
scenery which Monte Carlo affords, to listen
to such music as can be heard in the
place in Europe as the Casino Garden, and
eat the food which the most interesting bits
of country along this coast, without paying too
much to the red or the black. The adjacent
town of Mentone has a much larger number
of visitors than Monte Carlo, and Lord
Lady Randolph, who has just stayed at
Mentone, is complaining Lord and Lady
Pollimore, who will remain there until April
and Sir Daniel and Lady Lysons. Lord
dogan, who derived so much benefit from
staying there last year after his long illness,
expected in the course of a day or two, to
the Chalet des Rosiers, where the Queen,
members of the House of the Queen,
mentone unattended by its owner. Mentone
favoured as it generally is in its weather even
above other places on the Riviera, has been
prevailed with the same heavy rains which have
visited here, and was in serious danger of
losing its good reputation for the winter, by
losing its irreducible, and a month's spring
weather will get everything right.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove yesterday afternoon, attended by the Hon. Ethel Cadogan. The Rev. H. M. Villiers and Mrs. Villiers had the honour of being presented to her Majesty on their marriage. The Rev. Randall Davidson, son-in-law of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, as Honorary Chaplain to the Queen, arrived at Osborne. The Very Rev. George Conn

PARIS, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1883.

morning that the promoters of the Manchester Ship Canal Bill have failed to comply with the standing orders of Parliament by submitting a bill which contains no plans and sections of the works they contemplate for making and maintaining the access to the proposed ship canal through the estuary of the Mersey. The objection is of a character so serious that it is very unlikely that any bill which has no plans and sections shall be obtained. Its nature will be understood from the fact, that it appeared from evidence given before the examiner that it would be necessary to construct works for nearly 100 miles to allow the entrance to the canal through shifting sands, and to cross over a great part of this distance there are only a few feet of water when the tide is out; while the proposed canal is to be twenty-four feet deep. The new channel is to be a new channel through the estuary of the Mersey, it would, therefore, be inaccessible. The new channel is an integral part of any scheme for a canal, involving works of extreme engineering and construction, and the promoters have failed to make any provision for its Bill. The whole scheme would, therefore, seem to be in peril.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 25—28, 1883.

THE COMING SESSION.

The shadow of the coming session has already fallen upon the political world. Public men find it increasingly difficult to discuss, in general terms, questions of policy which, in less than three weeks, they will have to consider in detail. It is known from the statements of members of the Cabinet what subjects are to be taken up by the Government; in fact, it may almost be said that the Queen's Speech has been made already—not at Westminster, but in Chelsea. The scope, however, of the measures to be introduced still remains in obscurity. It would be rash to forecast the character of any of the Bills which will be enumerated on the 15th of February until they have been produced in print. Perhaps, with the experience of recent sessions to teach us caution, we should not be too readily confident that when a measure has been promised it is certain to be passed, or even discussed. Meanwhile the country, despite its undoubted desire to return to a sober and steady course of domestic legislation, equally avoiding heroic experiments and roving adventures, has been much pre-occupied with foreign affairs. Apart from the supreme importance of British interests in Egypt, which are in good hands, and which will be best served by leaving them so, we cannot be indifferent to the trials and troubles of France, our nearest neighbour and our old ally. But few who look up at the stately buildings of the Foreign Office are aware even of the existence of another question, which is to be honoured in a few days by the assembling of a conference of the Powers within those precincts. On the 5th of February, the representatives of the signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin will meet to consider the important question that relates to the navigation of the River Danube. It is not perhaps generally remembered that the trade of the Lower Danube is largely English, and that on this account, as well as on the ground of treaty obligations, England is directly and materially interested in the matter. The selection of London as the place of conference may be taken as a recognition of these facts. At any rate, the Foreign Office may be trusted not to forget them. Incidentally, the proceedings will be rendered interesting by the pretensions of the Riverain States, two of which have been recently advanced, or have advanced themselves, to the rank of kingdoms, and to take part in the Conference, and to obtain an accession not only of dignity but of substantial power. Roumania has proved, in war and in peace, its title to be regarded as a State of respectable rank, but the assumption of the regal title by Prince Charles excited the emulation of Serbia, where Prince Milan now also calls himself a king. Times are changed since the days when an Elector of Brandenburg wasted half his life in bribery, intrigues, and yoman-service to tempt an embarrassed Kaiser to recognize him as King of Prussia. But the demands of Roumania, Serbia, and Bulgaria to be admitted to a conference can be admitted only—king or no king—to a limited extent. In the case of Serbia and Bulgaria, at all events, only a consultative voice can be allowed. The proceedings of the conference will not, in all probability, attract much public interest, and if, as is possible, they should be somewhat protracted, they will be entirely eclipsed some ten days later by the opening of Parliament. The resumption of Parliamentary activity on the 15th of February, at least a week later than the usual date, has been determined, no doubt, by the exhausted state in which the autumn session left public men of all parties. Easter falls early this year, and there are scarcely five working weeks between the opening day of the session and the Easter holidays. It is to be hoped, therefore, that a good beginning will be made. Unfortunately, the Land League party, encouraged by the defeat of the Solicitor-General for Ireland at Mallow, threaten loudly and confidently that they "will make the Castle too hot for Lord Spencer," and will open fire upon the Chief Secretary on the first opportunity. In the debates on the Address we may expect to hear a good deal about the arrests and prosecutions in Ireland and about the operation of the Crimes Act. It will be curious to note how far the closure, or the dread of it, will be found effective for its alleged purposes—the strangling of obstruction and the compression of debate within reasonable limits. While the Land League party profess themselves determined to follow up their policy of worrying England into granting Irish independence, the attitude of the Conservative Opposition is ambiguous. No doubt, the Conservative leaders are inclined to recognise the fact that the time is not come when they can attack the Ministry with advantage to their party and without injury to national interests. They would not be unwilling to co-operate with Mr. Gladstone's Government in passing measures of moderate reform which have little or no party bearing. But it is equally true that there is a section of the Opposition—not by any means confined to the "Fourth party"—who look at the situation with different eyes. Inaction, they contend, is fatal; an Opposition which does not show its energy, its alertness, and its vigilance must perish. It is argued that members will take no trouble to march and counter-march, to be

always in their places and never to go home till the House is up, if, on every critical occasion their position is surrendered without a blow. The spirit of the party should be maintained by bold challenges, resolutions, discussions, and above all, divisions, even though the numbers of the Ministerial majority should be unaltered. Politicians, it is said, are like cricketers; they do not so much mind being beaten, but what they cannot stand is fielding all day long and never getting an innings. These counsels may be over-ruled, as they have been hitherto, by the Front Opposition bench, but they will probably cause spasmodic movements, at all events, from time to time, which will not render the course of business smoother and speedier in the coming session.—Times.

IRISH HOSTILITY TO ENGLAND.

Seditious speeches and writings by Nationalist leaders have recently looked only like a fictitious attempt to whip up again the flagging spirit of Irishian disloyalty; the Parallel Parliamentarians felt that they must live, it was thought, and were once again "troubling the waters" as a matter of strict business. But the Mallow election shows that the malady is more than skin-deep. The Nationalists have not been permanently conciliated by the so-called "Kilmainham Treaty," nor have the mass of the population been won over to the side of the English Government by the liberal largesse distributed by the Land Act and the Arrears Act. There is a constant seething of discontent in the country, which will continue even if Ireland becomes rich and prosperous, and the sooner this fact is acknowledged the better. It is only recently that the Liberal party have begun to really recognise the political character of Irish hostility to British rule. In 1870, and up to a year or two ago, the opinion was widely held and confidently expressed that Irish grievances were just like English ones; that when the real oppression and injustice ceased the discontent would die away. It was under this charitable impression that the nation consented to the two Irish Land Acts, in fact to the series of measures which will be always connected with the name of Mr. Gladstone. Latterly, however, it has been seen that the struggle is one quite apart from ordinary home politics, and that nothing—not redress of grievances, no generosity in Acts of Parliament—will satisfy certain Irish longings short of that virtual separation from England which will never be granted. Hence, in advanced Liberal quarters—always favourable to revolution and ever nibbling at the Empire—the view is now held that no more tinkering with the land question should be tried, but that a Home Rule measure is the panacea for the disease. How absolutely hopeless the dream of separation is can be realised by those who know the sentiments of the nation; while any Home Rule short of that would fail to satisfy the aspirations of turbulent agitators. So we are going round in an vicious circle. The painful and disheartening fact which is apparent is that nothing can really be hoped from either the reasonableness or the gratitude of the malcontents. The Mallow election seems to prove this by itself. Constituencies able to reject the candidate of a Government which has heaped such unnumbered favours on one of the three kingdoms must cherish some profound dissatisfaction which no remedial measures can reach. We are happily free, however, from the immediate dread of a renewal of agrarian outrage, and Lord Spencer's rule in Dublin seems to be unearthing the worst assassination conspirators. "For the present, and a weary while to come," Ireland must be ruled with a strong hand, until it recognises the indisputable fact that in setting its heart upon independence it is crying for the moon. The discussion of new Irish measures in Parliament is worse than useless. Even Mr. Forster, who thinks Home Rule may be quieted by a dose of political equality, would defer the use of his medicine until a fit opportunity arises. Ireland has been sufficiently legislated for; it has now to be governed. The exodus of suspected persons, and the arrest of members of the "Inner Circle" of bravos bent on murder, is a hopeful symptom which may be set off against the result of the Mallow election, and the cheap escapades of Messrs. Healy, Davitt, and O'Brien.—Daily Telegraph.

THE FINANCIAL RISKS OF THE FRENCH CRISIS.

The uneasiness about French politics deepens the lassitude of trade. Vague fears of revolutions and revolutionary wars rise in the mind directly men hear that French politics are agitated, and there is not a Power on the whole Continent which could escape the gravest difficulties were France to become a prey to chaos, for however brief a period. A mere French crisis, therefore, is not what mercantile observers fear so much as a general overturn. There is too much rotten material of a combustible kind about for fires to be easily localised. Hence a reluctance to give out orders, dragging prices, accumulating stocks, and mounting fears. As yet it must, however, be allowed this panic of mind affects the genuine trade of the country—its barter of goods and its manufactures—more than it does the stock and money markets. For one thing, people who deal in money look to have great abundance of their commodity just because the French are becoming effervescent. That always brings money to this country, we are told; and already considerable sums are said to have come; though that is a statement not borne out either by the fact that has thus far taken place in French securities or by the state of the exchange. But given a certain height of uneasiness in France, money would, without doubt, be sent hither for safety in great amounts. It was so during the Franco-German war, and while the infant Republic was wrestling with the Commune, and it will be so again. The money-broker then has little objection to a row in France on the score of his fears about politics and their effect on credit. He objects rather because money may thereby be made too cheap. The dealer in stocks, again, puts up looking things in the face as long as he can, because he knows only too well what the results of a genuine panic would be. It is impossible, indeed, to over-estimate the loss that would overtake innumerable people were faith in public safety to give way to a serious extent. We do not probably hold many French Rentes in this country; but Rentes would be only one among many stocks affected, and there is

hardly an international security that could be named other than French Rentes in which a severe fall would not do immeasurable damage here. The more reason, therefore, why the dealer in stocks should turn his back upon what is going on, and steadily look the other way. At the same time, the dread of the future is sufficient to stop his dealing. Market jobbers and arbitragists will not buy freely at present, and if the alarm spread will refuse to buy at all. They will leave the Haute Banque and wholesale loan contractors to make of their "securities" what they can, when fear really lays hold of them. Where, therefore, the greatest amount of anxiety about the future must exist at present is among the members of this upper class. The Haute Banque of Europe has a tremendous stake in the peaceable ending of the existing ferment in France. Never since the fashion of pledging so-called national credit began, have the great joint stock and private loan-dealing institutions had so much dead weight of paper upon their hands. The whole tendency of events for several years past has been to throw them into this position, and it may be reasonably said that there has been no escape for them since 1876—since the Eastern Question, in short, began to ferment. Slowly, but with a persistence that must have been heart-breaking, the resources of the Haute Banque have been absorbed in propping stocks which the public would not take off its hands. The very exceptional height to which prices have in many instances been driven is proof of this. From old the sure bait which the financial anglers for subscribers and buyers have found infallible has been rising markets, and they have been casting this bait before the public for years past with French Rentes, with Russian, Austrian, Hungarian, Spanish, Egyptian, and other bonds, with a result so far from satisfactory that in sheer desperation they have forced quotations to an absurd height. "If we only go on," they seem to have said to themselves, "the device must act." But it has not acted, and should the alarm in France grow to something more than the consequences for many a fair-seeming institution must be disastrous to the think of. There is abundant reason to fear that 30 francs in French Rentes alone, and the more dead weight of unplaced stock is enough to plunge them into a deeper gulf than that should real holders take to selling. It has been the fashion to say that Rentes were at their existing high quotations because of the dearth of good investments, and the consequent eager demand of the small investor. Yet along with this cry we have had the admissions, official and other, before us for months past that the 410,000,000 loan issued by the French Government in 1881 has never been placed—never been sold to these investors. In other words, the Haute Banque forced up the price of the pre-existing Rentes to a point that kept investors away, and had to shoulder this new burden itself in order to prevent the entire fabric of credit from tumbling about its ears. If this is the state of things in French Rentes, what must it be with the over-issues of poorer countries? At this very moment the Haute Banque sees its resources diminishing through the withdrawal of deposits and through the steady increase in its load of securities which could no more be sold within 10 per cent. of their present prices, than the paper they are holding could be transmitted into its weight in gold. Its fears are therefore intense, and make themselves visible by the thousand tongues that shout in every language of Europe that all is well. The very magnitude of the danger may perhaps be the best ground for hope. Interests the most powerful financially and politically the world has ever seen unite in France in efforts to smother the fire, and they may succeed for this time.—Pall Mall Gazette.

THE RETURN OF CETEWAYO.

The correspondent of the Standard at Durban telegraphed on Thursday:—
We have news from the expedition into Zululand up to January 19. At the meeting held on the 15th no details were entered into with respect to the future settlement of the country, and it is stated that they will not be made known till the final act of restoration has been accomplished. Cetewayo acknowledged the loss of those which he signed at Cape Town, but nothing whatever was said, as has been stated in some quarters, that he signed them under protest. It is true, however, that he complained somewhat of being absent from the last part of his country. Sir Theophilus Shepstone informed him that he was now in the Zululand of the future, and must not in any way consider himself a prisoner or under any sort of restraint, but a perfectly free agent, his being escorted by British troops being a personal honour. The final act of restoration will take place, as Cetewayo considers most convenient, with a view to giving time to him to call up his people. The action of Sir Theophilus Shepstone in this matter is considered extremely wise, and it is not what mercantile observers fear so much as a general overturn. There is too much rotten material of a combustible kind about for fires to be easily localised. Hence a reluctance to give out orders, dragging prices, accumulating stocks, and mounting fears. As yet it must, however, be allowed this panic of mind affects the genuine trade of the country—its barter of goods and its manufactures—more than it does the stock and money markets. For one thing, people who deal in money look to have great abundance of their commodity just because the French are becoming effervescent. That always brings money to this country, we are told; and already considerable sums are said to have come; though that is a statement not borne out either by the fact that has thus far taken place in French securities or by the state of the exchange. But given a certain height of uneasiness in France, money would, without doubt, be sent hither for safety in great amounts. It was so during the Franco-German war, and while the infant Republic was wrestling with the Commune, and it will be so again. The money-broker then has little objection to a row in France on the score of his fears about politics and their effect on credit. He objects rather because money may thereby be made too cheap. The dealer in stocks, again, puts up looking things in the face as long as he can, because he knows only too well what the results of a genuine panic would be. It is impossible, indeed, to over-estimate the loss that would overtake innumerable people were faith in public safety to give way to a serious extent. We do not probably hold many French Rentes in this country; but Rentes would be only one among many stocks affected, and there is

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THE BANK RATE.

A reduction of 1 per cent. was on Thursday made in the rate of discount charged by the Bank of England; and after having remained 5 per cent. since September 14th last the charge is now 4 per cent. The Bank rate is said to be a fiction; but it is not altogether so. When we see what is called the market rate of interest sinking far below that of the Bank we should not forget that the so-called market rate is an exaggeration of cheapness—it is not the rate which rules the whole of the money market.—
Very fine bills, bearing the guarantee of firms and institutions known almost to the whole mercantile world, come into the market, but a large proportion of bill and advance business is done away from the so-called market. In the country the Bank rate is the basis for the vast majority of transactions in money. Even in London the interest allowed by banks on deposits varies to some extent in accordance with the Bank rate of discount. During the past autumn the so-called market rate of discount fell far below that of the Bank through sheer force of competition for the fine bills spoken of. There was an unemployed surplus of money outside the control of the Bank of England, and it could not easily help the competition of this money in the market. Both the Exchequer and the India Council keep accounts at the Bank, but these important clients had then low balances to put at the disposal of the Bank. The position is now just the reverse. Both the Exchequer and the India Council have at present large balances at the Bank, and the unemployed money outside is small. There is little or no money in the market to be offered and offered by competitors for bills. If money wanted the Bank must be applied to. Accordingly the decision as to what the value of money shall be rests now more than usually with the Bank of England, which acts well as an honourary in not abusing the peculiar position of its house by making a market of its own. In modern business a man often borrows five times as much as his own private capital. The difference of one per cent. in the interest on his borrowed money is the equal to five per cent. on his capital; and this is a wide difference. Business in several paths is cut so fine, as the term goes, and competition is so keen, that the loss at the rate of five per cent. in their profit is a serious matter for traders.—Daily News.

EXCITEMENT IN CAIRO.

The correspondent of the Daily News at Cairo telegraphed on Thursday night:—
The consequence of ridiculous rumours of a coming war between France and England there has been much excitement in the native quarters of the city. The excitement increased to-day because of the march of some companies of English troops to selected positions within the town for the purpose of exercise. The commotion will doubtless be merely temporary. According to Colonel Stewart's report, two millions are under arms on the side of the Mahdi, but his informants must have overestimated the facts, as for example, in the case of the Mahdi's army, which the Mahdi lost 40,000 men. The English officers who are going to the Sudan strongly condemn the total absence of an Intelligence Department, the expense of which the Government appears unwilling to meet, and to the want of which the late reverses are greatly due. It has been decided to employ in the Sudan at least five Nordenfledts. Captain Walker is preparing to instruct the natives in their use. Baker Pacha's revision of the Sudan's police system has already produced excellent results. Colonel Taylor, the commandant of the new Egyptian cavalry, while exposing the past want of training and discipline of the men, assures me that the recruits are good material, capable of becoming thoroughly trustworthy. There is similar testimony as to other arms.

THE SILVER WEDDING AT BERLIN.

Telegraphing on Thursday, the Berlin correspondent of the Times says:—
The wedding of Lord Wolsley's name among the patrons of the Vine Club, the special object of which is "to enable members to obtain wines, spirits, and liquors for home consumption at wholesale prices," has very naturally caused some amusement. Of course, there is no reason why a man who conspires to "wines, spirits, and liquors" should not at the same time be an advocate of temperance; but Lord Wolsley has been going further, and has just been telling the various temperance societies at Blackburn that it was an intention of his to give a banquet to the Queen's army corps, and only her Majesty's colours, but also the Blue Ribbon. If so, why does not the Queen's Example is better than precept.
Really, if "General" Booth hopes to do any good by means of his Army, he should seek to abate, instead of encouraging the sensational absurdities of his soldiers. Here is an account of what took place at Plymouth, after a speech from the "General":—"A number of the Plymouth Temperance Society, and a disappointed jersey, and trousers to correspond, and related the blessings he had experienced as a result of his conversion. Suddenly, before the audience, the man loosed two or three strings, kicked off the top of his boots, and stood confessedly in the smart uniform of the Army, trim, orderly, and respectable. The transformation had a wonderful effect upon the audience. There was a murmur of surprise, and then a chorus of "Hallelujahs" from all parts of the meeting. Who will save us from the infection that the Oxford and Cambridge boat-race imposes on the newspaper-reading world? About eight good weeks must elapse before the race is rowed, and day by day we shall be bored with the weighty conditions, and breathless of the sixteen utterly insignificant young gentlemen. The public has no earthly interest in any of them, and will refuse to interest themselves even in their names until a few days before the race—which, in point of fact, it would not be a procession of the better races can be seen any Saturday in the season, between Putney and Hammersmith, and the Grand Challenge Cup race at Henley is infinitely more exciting. The newspapers always urge that they are hard pressed for copy, and that the date of the play approached, was getting anxious as to the kind of old man the young actor would make him. "Have you thought anything of the make-up?" suggested the careful Bancroft. "Yes," was the reply. "I thought of making him a man of about 50." "Or," urged Bancroft, with great deliberation and marked emphasis, "or 59." A manager who can appreciate the difference between a man of 58 and 59 must be a marvel. But now I fancy I have detected the accurate Bancroft in a slip. In the play of "Caste," Captain Hawtree, and his friend D'Alroy are ordered to India to assist in quelling the Mutiny. Why, then, does Hawtree wear on his uniform the ribbon of the Indian medal that could not possibly have been granted until the campaign was over? No doubt the accurate Mr. Bancroft did not think a good open-glass would detect the colour. Let him wear a Crimean ribbon, and then he will be right as a decorated officer going to India.

is a strikingly executed marble bust of herself, by the celebrated Berlin sculptor, Professor Hegas. The brothers and sisters of the Queen, Princesses combined to present her with the copy of a painting by Copley, representing the daughters of George III., of which the original hangs in Buckingham Palace. This copy has been made by Mr. Muller, who has worked extensively for Her Majesty the Queen, and is very well done. The King and Queen of the Belgians have sent a handsome silver bowl for flowers. The united gift of Prince and Princess William of Prussia is a very fine writing-table, in the Louis Quinze style; while a conspicuous object among the multitude of pictorial works of art that crowd the exhibition rooms is a large and handsome framed photograph of the Prince William himself, in full Highland costume. The gift of Lord and Lady Amphil of a pair of silver candlesticks and inkstands and a writing table, the members of the British Embassy here contributing a double branched silver candelabrum, with shades, a copy of one in the Windsor plate room. The surviving members of the Queen's household as it was when the Princess Royal of England was married, have sent over an ornamental silver punch-bowl, hall-marked at the time of George II.; while, perhaps, the most costly and certainly the most imposing of all presents was furnished by those members of the household of the Crown Prince and the Princess who have served them since their wedding. This is a magnificent grand piano, by Sechstein, of Berlin—the case being executed in Louis Quinze style, with white panels, and ornamental carved work of figures and flowers. On the inside of the lid is painted the gala equipage, drawn by three pair of horses in gorgeous trappings, in which they made their public entry into Berlin; and the panels contain paintings of Balmoral, Windsor, the New Palace, Potsdam, scenes from the Riviera, and other places intimately associated with their wedded life. A further gift of a similar kind is a very handsome table cover, worked by ladies of the Crown Princess's household, on each border the names Marie Adelaide Louise Victoria.

The Royal Worcester Porcelain Company have sent a very fine bleu du Roi and gold tea service, with plateau; Messrs. Elkington and Co., of Birmingham and London, a silver copy of the equestrian statue of George IV., from the Imperial Treasury of Moscow; Messrs. Thomas Webb and Sons, glass manufacturers, Stourbridge, a handsome pair of cameo cut glass vessels; Mr. Vincent Robinson, a gold embroidered Oriental table cover; Sir George and Lady Bedford, a pendant ornament of heart-shaped, made of Indian amethysts; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mardle, of Leek, a hearthrug of Indian silk, which has attracted all visitors; Baron Schroder, a very fine George III. tea-kettle; Sir Richard Wallace, a magnificent mirror, with gilded mounting, and adorned with the coats of arms of the jubilee pair.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM "TRUTH.")
Abercrombie Castle is an old and very inconveniently-arranged house, with small rooms, and it is expected that it will be extensively altered and improved, with a view to its being occupied by the younger members of the aristocracy. It is understood that in the future autumn the Prince and Princess of Wales will reside at Birkhall Lodge, the mansion on H.R.H.'s estate in Glenmuick, which lies a short distance south of Ballater. This property was bought for H.R.H. many years ago, and it is understood that the Prince and Princess will be residing there. Birkhall has seldom been inhabited by Royalty. Last autumn the Prince lent the house and grounds to the Marquis of Hamilton, and in 1881 Mrs. Gerard Leigh stayed there for six weeks.

According to the new "Domesday Book" return, the Queen's private estates extend over 37,372 acres, and the annual rental is £20,773. This does not include the domain of Clarendon, which was to pass to the country on the death of her Majesty, but which last year became her property by her purchase of the reversion. In addition to the Queen's estates in Great Britain, her Majesty possesses property at Coburg, and the Villa Hohenlohe and its grounds at Baden-Baden.

The name of Lord Wolsley's name among the patrons of the Vine Club, the special object of which is "to enable members to obtain wines, spirits, and liquors for home consumption at wholesale prices," has very naturally caused some amusement. Of course, there is no reason why a man who conspires to "wines, spirits, and liquors" should not at the same time be an advocate of temperance; but Lord Wolsley has been going further, and has just been telling the various temperance societies at Blackburn that it was an intention of his to give a banquet to the Queen's army corps, and only her Majesty's colours, but also the Blue Ribbon. If so, why does not the Queen's Example is better than precept.

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Mr. Bancroft is well known to be the soul of accuracy in all details connected with the stage. One good story is told of him in confirmation of this very admirable trait. One of his company was cast for an oldish man, and the Manager, as the date of the play approached, was getting anxious as to the kind of old man the young actor would make him. "Have you thought anything of the make-up?" suggested the careful Bancroft. "Yes," was the reply. "I thought of making him a man of about 50." "Or," urged Bancroft, with great deliberation and marked emphasis, "or 59." A manager who can appreciate the difference between a man of 58 and 59 must be a marvel. But now I fancy I have detected the accurate Bancroft in a slip. In the play of "Caste," Captain Hawtree, and his friend D'Alroy are ordered to India to assist in quelling the Mutiny. Why, then, does Hawtree wear on his uniform the ribbon of the Indian medal that could not possibly have been granted until the campaign was over? No doubt the accurate Mr. Bancroft did not think a good open-glass would detect the colour. Let him wear a Crimean ribbon, and then he will be right as a decorated officer going to India.

The papers are telling a wonderful story of the good fortune of a gentleman who was married in Devonshire last week, and who found under his plate at the wedding-breakfast a cheque for £25,000, which the gentleman concerned, the story is fiction. The cheque "for plate" was £1,000.

An officer, who says that he is not a rich man, bitterly complains of the recent orders issued by the Horse Guards on the subject of mess expenses being ignored and disobeyed in the same way that former similar orders were. "The officers," he observes, "are, just as before, compelled to pay extra subscriptions, and the scale of living and entertaining remains as extravagant as ever it was. If the authorities insist on having a mess system, they ought to insist on their orders being obeyed."

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, THURSDAY.
The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by Lady Churchill, Earl Sydney, Lord Steward, and Countess Sydney, and Colonel Sir Charles and Lady Pearson, arrived at Osborne. Her Majesty's dinner party in the evening included Princess Beatrice, Lady Churchill, the Dowager Marchioness of Ely, Earl and Countess of Devon, Sir Charles and Lady Pearson, Captain Bigge, and the Master of the Household. Her Majesty walked out this morning, attended by the Dowager Marchioness of Ely, Princess Beatrice, attended by Miss Bauer. Lady Churchill has succeeded the Countess of Erroll as Lady in Waiting to her Majesty.

The Prince of Wales, attended by the Hon. H. Tyrwhit-Wilson and Mr. Knollys, left London on Thursday evening for the Continent.

The death of the Hon. Caroline Boyle, for many years Maid of Honour to the late Queen Adelaide, which occurred at Portishead on the 23d inst., is announced. The deceased lady was the eldest daughter of Admiral Lord Gage, and was married to the late Hon. Edmund, seventh Earl of Cork and Ormonde, his wife, Caroline Amelia, daughter of the late Mr. William Poyntz, of Midgham, Berks, and was born May 26, 1803.

The Hon. Mrs. William Tomline, youngest daughter of Henry Harcourt, Esq., of Gage, by Elizabeth Harcourt, daughter of the late Hon. Edward Foley, died at Eastbourne on Tuesday last. She was born November 8, 1830, and married February 15, 1853, Mr. William Tomline, of Whitehall gardens, brother of Colonel Tomline, of Orwell Park, Ipswich.

The marriage of Lord Henry Gordon Lennox, M.P., with Mrs. White, of Ardara, was solemnised at Chichester Cathedral on Thursday. All business in the city was stopped, and a general holiday was observed. The city was gaily decorated, and the occasion was one of general rejoicing, the noble lord being exceedingly popular among his constituents, for whom he has represented in Parliament for thirty-eight years. Previous to the ceremony, which took place at half-past two o'clock, Mrs. White, who came by special train from Portsmouth, was received at Chichester Station by the Mayor and Corporation of the city, and an address of welcome was presented to her. The distinguished party which accompanied her then drove to the Cathedral, where the bridegroom was in waiting. The marriage service was choral, and the Dean officiated. The bride was given away by Prince and Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Lord and Lady Lennox drove to the Assembly Rooms, where they entertained a party of friends at the wedding tea. The presents were very numerous and costly, and included one from the Prince of Wales.

The news of the death of Lord Greville at Cloncy Castle, Delvin, county Westmeath, has been received. The deceased nobleman was dressing on Thursday morning when he suddenly became unwell, and sent for his agent, Mr. O'Reilly; but on the messenger arriving and presenting him with a telegram, he found a telegram from Cloncy Castle announcing the death of his master after an hour's illness.

THE DECAY OF POPULATION IN FRANCE.

Under this heading Miss Ada M. Leigh, of the Mission House, 77, Avenue Wagram, Paris, writes as follows to the Times:—"The article contained in the Times of the 16th inst., upon the decay of population in France deserves the attention of all who care for the future of our country as well as that of France. To those who know anything of life below the surface of large cities your figures are most significant. If, as our lively neighbours tell us, England is the Gretna Green for all nations," according to the statistics of marriage unknown to the sober calculations of a *council de famille*, France is certainly becoming the playground of children of stray parentage, and, perhaps, no city could unfold such a race of children without its own stories as Paris. If the births in France, taken en masse, present such an unfavourable proportion to the deaths, it would be interesting to know how many children, of those committed to the nurses licensed by the Government, live to become men and women. It would deny that there are those beneath the smiling face of Parisian society who are nothing loth to accept the Government as the greatest foster mother to whom infant life is confided.

This is not the only side of these melancholy statistics—there is one which touches our own land. I allude to English women lawfully married to Frenchmen and foreigners in Great Britain, many of whom, having been brought to Paris in comparative luxury, suddenly cast adrift without any previous intimation—themselves cast adrift with their children with no claim for compensation, or for any other explanation than that their honourable marriage in England is worthless in France, and that they must face the reality of such a position, and to begin almost a hopeless struggle for herself and little ones; and there can be no doubt that many an English mother in her despair, has, especially in former years, actually availed herself of the shelter of the *Soufflets Trouvés* for her offspring rather than see her child die of starvation. In one case, helped by our Home and Orphanage, the mother, seeing no alternative, was spending her last hours in procuring poison for herself and her children, rather than listen to piteous cries of hunger which she could not satisfy, when her steps were mercifully directed to our Home. Under almost every phase of sorrow and from every station in life, which desertion and want could realize, have little children been received by us. But while we have been doing what we could, a more ghastly and successful work has been going on, which threatens to outdo our efforts. Quoting from the official statistics recently published of suicides in France, it appears, between the years 1870 and 1880, that 108 boys and 40 girls below fifteen years of age destroyed themselves. Of these two hundred and nine were over 12 years of age; 21 between the ages of 12 and 10; four were 10 years old; six were below 9; the youngest being only seven—making a total of 238; or, in other words, the ghastly work of self-destruction has in four years more than doubled ours of merey during the past eight years. Let those who are apt to overrate the good which is being done reflect upon the painful contrast. One recalls at the possibility of a child conceiving the thought of self-destruction. Has it been from the flow of unrestrained passion which sometimes marks the bringing up of the only child of

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LONDON, JANUARY 25-26, 1883.

THE COMING SESSION.

The shadow of the coming session has already fallen upon the political world. Public men find it increasingly difficult to discuss, in general terms, questions of policy which, in less than three weeks, they will have to consider in detail. It is known from the statements of members of the Cabinet what subjects are to be taken up by the Government; in fact, it may almost be said that the Queen's Speech has been made already—not at Westminster, but in Chelsea. The scope, however, of the measures to be introduced still remains in obscurity. It would be rash to forecast the character of any of the Bills which will be enumerated on the 15th of February until they have been produced in print. Perhaps, with the experience of recent sessions to teach us caution, we should not be too readily confident that when a measure has been promised it is certain to be passed, or even discussed. Meanwhile the country, despite its undoubted desire to return to a sober and steady course of domestic legislation, equally avoiding heroic experiments and roving adventures, has been much pre-occupied with foreign affairs. Apart from the supreme importance of British interests in Egypt, which are in good hands, and which will be best served by leaving them so, cannot be indifferent to the trials and troubles of France, our nearest neighbour and our ally. But few who look up at the stately buildings of the Foreign Office are aware even of the existence of another question, which is to be honoured in a few days by the assembling of a conference of the Powers within those precincts. On the 5th of February, the representatives of the signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin will meet to consider the important questions that relate to the navigation of the River Danube. It is not, perhaps, generally remembered that the trade of the Lower Danube is largely English, and that on this account, as well as on the ground of treaty obligations, England is directly and materially interested in the matter. The selection of London as the place of conference may be taken as a recognition of these facts. At any rate, the Foreign Office may be trusted not to forget them. Incidentally, the proceedings will be rendered interesting by the pretensions of the Riverain States, two of which have been recently advanced, or have advanced themselves, to the rank of kingdoms, to take part in the Conference, and to obtain an accession not only of dignity but of substantial power. Roumania has proved, in war and in peace, its title to be regarded as a state of respectable rank, but the assumption of the royal title by Prince Charles excited the emulation of Serbia, where Prince Milan now also calls himself a king. Times are changed since the days when an Elector of Brandenburg wasted half his life in bribery, intrigues, and yeoman-service to tempt an embarrassed Kaiser to recognize him as King of Prussia. But the demands of Roumania, Serbia, and Bulgaria to be admitted to the conference can be admitted only—King or no King—to a limited extent. In the case of Serbia and Bulgaria, at all events, only a consultative voice can be allowed. The proceedings of the conference will not, in all probability, attract much public interest, and if, as is possible, they should be somewhat protracted, they will be entirely eclipsed some ten days later by the opening of Parliament. The resumption of Parliamentary activity on the 15th of February, at least a week later than the usual date, has been determined, no doubt, by the exhausted state in which the autumn session left public men of all parties. Easter falls early this year, and there are scarcely five working weeks between the opening day of the session and the Easter holidays. It is to be hoped, therefore, that a good beginning will be made. Unfortunately, the Land League party, encouraged by the defeat of the Solicitor-General for Ireland at Mallow, threaten loudly and confidently that they "will make the Castle too hot for Lord Spencer," and will open fire upon the Chief Secretary on the first opportunity. In the debates on the Address we may expect to hear a good deal about the arrests and prosecutions in Ireland and about the operations of the Crimes Act. It will be curious to note how far the closure, or the dread of it, will be found effective for its alleged purposes—the strangling of obstruction and the compression of debate within reasonable limits. While the Land League party profess themselves determined to follow up their policy of worrying England into granting Irish independence, the attitude of the Conservative Opposition is ambiguous. No doubt, the Conservative leaders are inclined to recognise the fact that the time is not come when they can attack the Ministry with advantage to their party and without injury to national interests. They would not be unwilling to co-operate with Mr. Gladstone's Government in passing measures of moderate reform which have little or no party bearing. But it is equally true that there is a section of the Opposition—not by any means confined to the "Fourth party"—who look at the situation with different eyes. Inaction, they contend, is fatal; an Opposition, alertness, and its vigilance must perish. It is argued that members will take no trouble to march and countermarch, to be

always in their places and never to go home till the House is up, on every critical occasion their position is surrendered without a blow. The spirit of the party should be maintained by bold challenges, resolutions, discussions, and, above all, divisions, even though the numbers of the Ministerial majority should be unaltered. Politicians, it is said, are like cricketers; they do not so much mind being beaten, but what they cannot stand is being left out. These counsels may be overruled, as they have been hitherto, by the Front Opposition bench, but they will not render the course of business smoother and speedier in the coming session.—*Times*.

IRISH HOSTILITY TO ENGLAND.

Seditious speeches and writings by Nationalist leaders have recently looked only like a fictitious attempt to whip up again the flagrant spirit of Hibernian disloyalty; the Paraclete Parliamentarians felt that they must live, it was thought, and were once again "troubling the waters" as a matter of strict business. But the Mallow election shows that the malady is more than skin-deep. The Nationalists have not been permanently conciliated by the so-called "Kilmainham Treaty," nor have the mass of the population been won over to the side of the English Government by the liberal largesse distributed by the Land Act and the Arrears Act. There is a constant seething of discontent in the country, which will continue even if Ireland becomes rich and prosperous, and the sooner this fact is acknowledged the better. It is only recently that the Liberal party have begun to really recognise the political character of Irish hostility to British rule. In 1870, and up to a year or two ago, the opinion was widely held and confidently expressed that Irish grievances were just like English ones; that when the real oppression and injustice ceased the discontent would die away. It was under this charitable impression that the nation consented to the two Irish Land Acts, in fact to the series of measures which will be always connected with the name of Mr. Gladstone. Later, however, it has been seen that the struggle is one quite apart from ordinary home politics, and that nothing—no redress of grievances, no generosity of Acts of Parliament—will satisfy certain Irish longings short of that virtual separation from England which will never be granted. Hence, in advanced Liberal quarters—always favourable to revolution and ever nibbling at the Empire—the view is now held that no more tinkering with the land question should be tried, but that a Home Rule measure is the panacea for the disease. How absolutely hopeless the dream of separation is can be realised by those who know the sentiments of the nation; while any Home Rule short of that which will satisfy the aspirations of turbulent agitators. So we are going round in an vicious circle. The painful and disheartening fact which is apparent to everyone is that nothing can really be hoped from either the reasonableness or the gratitude of the malcontents. The Mallow election seems to prove this by itself. Constituencies able to reject the candidate of a Government which has heaped such unnumbered favours on one of the three kingdoms must cherish some profound dissatisfaction which no remedial measures can reach. We are happily free, however, from the immediate dread of a renewal of agrarian outrage, and Lord Spencer's rule in Dublin seems to be untroubled by the worst assassination conspirators. "For the present, at least, a weary while to come," Ireland must be ruled with a strong hand, until it recognises the indisputable fact that in setting its heart upon independence it is crying for the moon. The discussion of new Irish measures in Parliament is worse than useless. Even Mr. Foster, who thinks Home Rule may be quieted by a dose of political equality, would defer the use of his medicine until a fit opportunity arrives. Ireland has been sufficiently legislated for; it has now to be governed. The exodus of suspected persons, and the arrest of members of the "Inner Circle" of bravos bent on murder, is a hopeful symptom which may be set off against the result of the Mallow election, and the cheap escapades of Messrs. Healy, Davitt, and O'Brien.—*Daily Telegraph*.

THE FINANCIAL RISKS OF THE FRENCH CRISIS.

The uneasiness about French politics deepens the lassitude of trade. Vague fears of revolutions and revolutionary wars rise in the mind directly men hear that French politics are agitated, and there is not a Power on the whole Continent which could escape the gravest difficulties were France to become a prey to chaos, for however brief a period. A mere French crisis, therefore, is not what mercantile observers fear so much as a general overturn. There is too much rotten material of a combustible kind about for fires to be easily localised. Hence a reluctance to give out orders, dragging prices, accumulating stocks, and mounting fears. As yet it must, however, be allowed this panic of mind affects the genuine trade of the country—its barter of goods and its manufactures—more than it does the stock and money markets. For one thing, people who deal in money look to have great abundance of their commodity just because the French are becoming effervescent. That always brings money to this country, we are told; and already considerable sums are said to have come; though that is a statement not borne out either by the fact that has thus far taken place in French securities or by the state of the exchange. But given a certain height of uneasiness in France, money would, without doubt, be sent hither for safety in great amounts. It was so during the Franco-German war, and while the infant Republic was wrestling with the Commune, and it will be so again. The money-broker then has little objection to a row in France on the score of his fears about politics and their effect on credit. He objects rather because money may thereby be made too cheap. The dealer in stocks, again, puts off looking things in the face as long as he can, because he knows only too well what the results of a genuine panic would be. It is impossible, indeed, to over-estimate the loss that would overtake innumerable people were faith in public safety to give way to a serious extent. We do not probably hold many French Rentes in this country; but Rentes would be only one among many stocks affected, and there is

hardly an international security that could be named other than French Rentes in which a severe fall would not do immeasurable damage here. The more reason, therefore, why the dealer in stocks should turn his back upon what is going on, and steadily look the other way. At the same time, the dread of the future is sufficient to stop his dealing. Market jobbers and arbitragists will not buy freely at present, and if the alarm spreads will refuse to buy at all. They will leave the Haute Banque and wholesale loan contractors to make of their "securities" what they can, when fear really lays hold of them. Where, therefore, the greatest amount of anxiety about the future must exist at present is among the members of the stock class. The Haute Banque of Europe has a tremendous stake in the peaceable ending of the existing ferment in France. Never before since the fashion of pledging so-called national credit began, have the great joint stock and private loan-dealing institutions had so much dead weight of paper upon their hands. The whole tendency of events for several years past has been to throw them into this position, and it may be reasonably said that there has been no escape for them since 1876—since the Eastern Question, in short, began to ferment. Slowly, but with a persistence that must have been heart-breaking, the resources of the Haute Banque have been absorbed in propping stocks which the public would not take off its hands. The very exceptional height to which prices have in many instances been driven is proof of this. From old the sure bait which the financial anglers for subscribers and buyers have found infallible has been rising markets, and they have been casting this bait before the public for years past with French Rentes, Spanish, Egyptian, and other bonds, with a result so far from satisfactory that in sheer desperation they have forced quotations to an absurd height. "If we only go on," they seem to have said to themselves, "the device must not." But it has not acted, and should the alarm in France grow to something more the consequences for many a fair-seeing institution must be disagreeable to think of. There is abundant room for a fall of 20 or 30 francs in French Rentes alone, and the mere dead weight of unplaced stock is enough to plunge them into a deeper gulf than that should real holders take to selling. It has been the fashion to say that Rentes were at their existing high quotations because of the dearth of good investments, and the consequent eager demand of the small investor. Yet along with this cry we have had the admissions, official and other, before us for months past that the £10,000,000 loan issued by the French Government in 1881 has never been "placed"—never been sold to these investors. In other words, the Haute Banque forced up the prices of the pre-existing Rentes to a point that kept investors away, and had to shoulder this very burden itself in order to prevent the entire fabric of credit from tumbling about its ears. If this is the state of things in the money market, what must be with the over-issues of poorer countries. At this very moment the Haute Banque sees its resources diminishing through the withdrawal of deposits and through the steady increase in its load of securities which could no more be sold within 10 per cent. of their present prices, than the paper they are made of could be transmuted into its weight in gold. Its fears are therefore intense, and make themselves visible by the thousand tongues that shout in every language of Europe that all is well. The very magnitude of the danger may perhaps be the best ground for hope. Interests too powerful financially and politically to be so easily overthrown, and France in efforts to smother the fire, and may succeed for this time.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE RETURN OF CETEWAYO.

The correspondent of the *Standard* at Durban telegraphed on Thursday:—
We have news from the expedition into Zululand up to January 19. At the meeting between Sir Theophilus Shepstone and Cetewayo on the 15th no details were entered into with respect to the future settlement of the country, and it is stated that they will not be made known till the final act of restoration has been accomplished. Cetewayo acknowledged as the conditions those which he signed at Cape Town, but nothing whatever was said, as has been stated in some quarters, that he signed under protest. It is true, however, that he complained somewhat of the shorn of the best part of his country. Sir Theophilus Shepstone informed him that he was now in the Zululand of the future, and must not in any way consider himself a prisoner or under any sort of restraint, but a perfectly free agent, who was being escorted by British troops being a personal honour to him. The final act of restoration will take place at such time as Cetewayo considers most convenient, with a view to giving time to him to call up his people. The action of Sir Theophilus in this respect is considered extremely politic, as it deprives Cetewayo of the chance of saying hereafter that he was not given any opportunity to appeal to the loyalty of his people. Rumours have been sent out, notifying the Zulus to a position that the expedition into Zululand by the British Resident and party. The son of John Dunn's Magistrate at Kuduini visited upon the King with a message from his father that the latter was kept away from Zululand. Although he was one who took part in the actual capture of Cetewayo, the King told him he would be glad to see his father when he was well enough to call upon him. The statements that the King was being badly received, or was showing much disappointment and annoyance, are absolutely untrue.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT.—As Mr. Chaplin, brother of Mr. Henry Chaplin, M.P., and Lady Castlereagh were driving to bounds on Wednesday in a lane near Stanwick, Yorkshire, the carriage was overturned through a meeting a cart. Mr. Chaplin fell in such a position that the wheels passed over his body, inflicting injuries which surgeons fear may terminate fatally. Lady Castlereagh was bruised, but after recovering from a fainting fit was able to proceed home.

THE BANK RATE.

A reduction of 1 per cent. was on Thursday made in the rate of discount charged by the Bank of England; and after having remained 5 per cent. since September 14th the charge is now 4 per cent. The Bank rate is said to be a fiction; but that is not altogether so. What we see what is called the market rate of interest sinking far below that of the Bank we should not forget that the so-called market rate is an exaggeration of cheapness—it is not the rate which rules the whole of the money market.—
Very fine bills, bearing the guarantee of the Government, are down almost to the whole mercantile world, come into the market; but a large proportion of bill and advance business is done away from the so-called market. In the country the Bank rate is the basis for the vast majority of transactions in money. Even in London the interest allowed by banks on deposits varies to some degree in accordance with the Bank rate of discount. During the past autumn the so-called market rate of discount fell far below that of the Bank through sheer force of competition for the fine bills supplied by the Government. There was a surplus of money outside the control of the Bank of England, and it could not easily help the competition of this money in the market. Both the Exchequer and the India Council keep accounts at the Bank, but there important clients had then low balances to the disposal of the Bank. The position is now just the reverse. Both the Exchequer and the India Council have at present large balances at the Bank, and the unemployed money market is small. There is little or no surplus in the market to be offered and offered by competitors for bills. If money he wanted the Bank must be applied to. Accordingly the decision as to what the value of money shall be rests now more than usually upon the Bank of England, which is doing honourably in not abusing the peculiar strength of its position by making an unnecessarily high charge. In modern business a man often borrows five times as much as his own private capital. The difference of one per cent. in the interest, and the difference of money is thus equal to five per cent. on his capital; and this is a wide difference. Business in several paths is cut so fine, as the term goes, and competition is so keen, that the loss at the rate of five per cent. in their profit is a serious matter for traders.—*Daily News*.

EXCITEMENT IN CAIRO.

The correspondent of the *Daily News* at Cairo telegraphed on Thursday night:—
In consequence of ridiculous rumours of a coming war between France and England there has been much excitement in the native quarters of the city. The excitement increased to-day because of the march of some companies of English troops to selected positions within the town for the purpose of exercise. The commotion will doubtless be merely temporary. According to Colonel Swart's report, two millions are under arms on the side of the Mahdi, but the Mahdists must have overestimated the facts, as for example in the account of an alleged battle in which the Mahdi lost 40,000 men. The English officers who are going to the Sudan strongly condemn the total absence of an intelligence department, the expense of which the Government appears unwilling to meet, and to the want of which the late reverses are greatly due. It has been decided to employ in the Sudan at least five Nordenfledts. Captain Viner is preparing to instruct the natives in their use. Baker Pasha's visit to Count Siala's police system has already produced excellent results. Colonel Taylor, the commandant of the new Egyptian cavalry, while exposing the past want of training and discipline of the men, assures me that the recruits are good material, capable of becoming thoroughly trustworthy. There is similar testimony as to other arms.

THE SILVER WEDDING AT BERLIN.

Telegraphing on Thursday, the Berlin correspondent of the *Times* says:—
To-day the flags on all the palaces and public buildings of the German capital, which yesterday flapped half-mast high, fluttered gaily at the top of their poles; and, despite the fact that Berlin is in deep mourning for the late Emperor, a holiday was celebrated to-day. It was the 25th anniversary of the marriage of the Crown Prince of Prussia with the Princess Royal of England; and the day could not pass unnoticed. The death of Prince Charles, who was the Queen's army doctor, the occasion of that brilliant festive banquet which it otherwise would have had; and what was intended to be a Court carnival has shrunk to the dimensions of a strictly private and family formality. And yet it was of such nature that the Linden, which was yesterday and with silent crowds, a slow-moving hearse, and strings of mourning carriages, was to-day filled with eager spectators, and gala equipages drawn by richly caparisoned horses.

In the course of the morning the Crown Prince and Princess received the congratulations of their household—including the Marshal von Moltke and General von Blumenthal, as having been formerly attached to the Imperial Highness—of the members of the Royal family, of the princely guests now here, and the various Ministers and special Envoys of foreign Sovereigns. Among the latter to offer their congratulations were the Emperor and Empress. It seems that in strict etiquette the younger pair should have repaired to the Palace to receive them, and were actually prepared to do so when their Majesties arrived, and anticipated their intentions. A touch of kindness which was all the more touching, as Her Majesty is in very feeble health, and had to be carried up the stairs of her son's palace. Soon afterwards, their Royal and Imperial Highnesses received the congratulations of the General staff, on behalf of the Emperor and Empress. 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A Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 27—28, 1883.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS IN FRANCE.

The Standard says:—So little resolution and so little resource have been exhibited by the Government that it is much to be regretted that the illness of M. Ducloux should have deprived them at this moment of the guidance of their chief. Less than ever may we look for those rapid strokes, those bold resolutions by which the imperilled position of a Ministry is sometimes retrieved. Whether a dissolution is practicable under existing circumstances is a question of which Ministers themselves are, perhaps, the best judges. An appeal to the good sense, the moderation, and the equity of the people might very possibly be answered by the Conservative sense. It may be doubted whether the present Chamber, which Gambetta himself found he could not manage, will ever be found manageable by anybody. It is lucky for the Republic that there is no one, and most of all no soldier, who is ready at this conjuncture to strike a blow at the Republic. If there were, the chances are that it would topple down like a house of cards. It is not its own strength that keeps it standing. It is the absence of any one popular personality. Once more the time has come when France, restless and timid, looks round for a man who is able to take masterful control of her destinies. Fortunately, perhaps, for France, no such soldier, statesman, or adventurer is at this moment to be found.

The Saturday Review says:—So far as external conditions go, the Republic is as secure to-day as it was on the morrow of the victory over Marshal MacMahon. Whatever change there has been is entirely the work of Republicans. This sudden access of terror at the self-evolved thought of an Orleansist assault upon the Republic is perhaps to be explained by the mutual distrust of the Government and the Extreme Left. M. Floquet's bill may have been designed to either unmask or commit the Cabinet. What is sauce for a Bonapartist is sauce for a Bonapartist. It does not matter whether a man would like to see himself or another man on the throne; he may equally labour to upset the Republic which stands in the way. Every convinced Royalist is a kingmaker in will, if not in deed; why should not be sent to join the men on whom he would like to exercise his art? More than this, why should the Republic stop at banishment when it has in its hands so much more effective a penalty? Exiles may come back, and then the labour of banishing them may go for nothing. It is only the dead that never return; it is in executions, not in decrees of banishment, that the safety of the State must be looked for. Whenever it is proclaimed that a man may be punished for what he is, and not for what he does, the principle that gave France the Terror will have been accepted by the Third Republic.

The Spectator says:—Who can confide in a Chamber capable of such pacts, and so divided into groups that no Government can obtain a fourth? We do not believe that the Republic is in danger, or that the French people will accept any other form of Government; but we do doubt whether, if a strong Ministry cannot be formed, or if the Chamber will not acknowledge any leader able to guide a Ministry, the revision of the Constitution will not be speedily at hand. Under the present one all the substantive power is deposited in the people; yet the Government can neither obtain permanent support nor distinct guidance from the representatives, nor consult the people themselves, who again only elect deputies at long intervals. The death of M. Gambetta has deprived the Republic of the only man who could unite the nation, and unless he can be speedily replaced, Constitutional revision, with all its dangers, its bitterness, and its disturbances to the course of affairs will become inevitable. Apart from its radical injustice, which alienates all right-thinking men, a policy of proscriptions splits a country into irreconcilable factions, each of which in turn uses the same weapons, till the headless parties fall into enduring anarchy. Republicanism is the most dignified form of human government, and in theory the best; but Mexico is a Republic as well as the United States.

The Statist says:—The question is, whether the Advanced Left is to supplant the Moderate Left, a question which was inevitable, but which has been precipitated by M. Gambetta's death, and also made more formidable in the eyes of the non-partisan public. But there appears little reason for the alarm. The monarchial conspiracy in 1877 without recourse to violence, and she will again be able to decide this struggle between the Moderate and the Advanced Republicans without violence. No doubt a Clémenceau Ministry, if it is to be formed, would give alarm to the timid propertied classes. But a Clémenceau Ministry would certainly prove more moderate than its opponents are willing to believe, and before it was long in power, if M. Clémenceau has the ability his friends believe, would restore confidence to the country and maintain order. The only question that need cause any real anxiety is as to the disposition of the peasantry. If they are afraid of the Advanced Republicans, there may, indeed, be trouble in store for France. But if they have, once for all, and whether for good or for evil, cast in their lot with the Republican party, the Republic, though it may have times of sore trial before it, will pass through them triumphantly.

THE MURDER LEAGUE.

The Saturday Review says:—It is difficult to imagine a more unprofitable occupation than arguing with those abettors of Irish anarchism who maintain that the revelations of Farrell and the methods by which those revelations were obtained justify their own condemnation of a policy of coercion. To speak with a pointed bluntness, an Irish plot or conspiracy is never discovered till the informer makes his appearance, and the informer rarely makes his appearance till the galleys are steadily at work. The exceptions to this rule have almost invariably been cases in which the authorities employed false brethren to enter the conspiracy and so get at its secrets—a process more fruitful of results than agreeable to modern squeamishness. If the detection of the worst and innermost circles of the Land League and of Fenianism has been unusually slow, it is not because the Government has coerced, but because it has until recently coerced so languidly and with so little decision that its proceedings were of none effect. The hand was in many cases, as is now certain, laid upon the right persons in Mr. Forster's arrests of suspects; but the custody in which they were kept was too lax to do any good, and they were let loose again on the country in the incredible and criminal access of vacillation which cost Lord Frederick Cavendish and Mr. Burke their lives. Meanwhile the greatest crimes were allowed to be committed with impunity, and while the salutary terrorism of the law was unexercised, the malignant terrorism of the League was allowed full swing. In such case no rewards were likely to tempt informers. But now, by the action of the last few weeks, the balance has been set nearly straight again. There are Land Leaguers who are not assassins; there are Fenians who are not assassins; but each society tends to produce assassins, and when the two overlap, as they notoriously do, the tendency becomes far more vigorous. How to meet and check it is perfectly plain. The terror of the anarchist must be met by the stronger terror of the law.

The Spectator considers that there is something in the news of the last few days which is almost appalling to the friends of Ireland. It is well that such a committee should be destroyed, well that a demoralising terror should be cast, well that the tending murders should distrust all their pretensions for secrecy; but we can feel no exultation. If we cannot trust the testimony of the informers, things are worse than ever, for we are in the presence of men who rival Titus Oates; but, if, as seems probable, we can trust it, think of what it is that is revealed. The determined efforts made by Englishmen to remove the agrarian trouble of Ireland have affected but a portion of the social difficulty. Outside that embodiment of agrarian passion and unreason, the Land League, stands another League, the so-called Fenian Brotherhood, which is not caring for the peasantry, not interested in reforms, however far-reaching, not moved by passions, however hard to make, but stimulated only by hostility to the connection with Great Britain. According to the informers, who we must not forget, are not repentant men, but men avowedly under terror for themselves, a committee exists embedded in the old Fenian body, the body seeking to stir up insurrection, consisting of men who actually believe that the Nihilist policy of assassination may succeed against a Viceroyalty. But that the evil conception should be applied to a delegated Government, perpetually renewable, and sure to be filled up for centuries, if Viceroy after Viceroy Secretary after Secretary fell under the knife, shows hopeless incapacity to understand the first conditions of the situation. It is possible that with the coming trials, political assassination, in itself a new crime in Ireland, may cease; but it is also possible that it may be entirely unaffected. The conclusions of reason, however probable, are in the face of facts visibly untrustworthy, and all we can say is, that we hope the Government will apply the law firmly and steadily, and that the law will act, as it usually does, as an irresistible restraining force. But we do not feel, as we should about any country but Ireland, a certainty that it will. That assassination is wicked, is no reason; that it is foolish, is no reason; that it is hopeless, is no reason.

THE IRISH ASSASSINATION PLOT.

STARTLING STATEMENTS.

The twenty prisoners who stand charged on remand with being members of an organisation established for the purpose of assassinating Government officials in Ireland were brought up for further examination in the County Court-house, adjoining Kilmainham Jail, on Saturday. When they were first charged they were examined at the Northern Divisional Police-court; but in consequence of the extreme difficulty of conveying so many prisoners through the streets, and with a view of avoiding any demonstration, it was arranged that they should be arraigned in the court alongside the goal, to which they could be brought without even coming to the view of the outside public. As it was generally understood that the admission to the court would be restricted, and as it was only on Saturday morning that it was definitely known that the examination could not be held, as last week, at the divisional police-court, there was only a small attendance of the public outside the building. A strong force of police was on duty on the charge. Superintendent Malloy, the chief of the detective force of Dublin Castle, but up to the time of the commencement of the proceedings their duty was a sinecure. Dr. Keys was the presiding magistrate, with Mr. Woodcock and Mr. O'Donnell, the chief police magistrates of the city. A number of ladies and gentlemen were accommodated with seats on the bench, amongst them being Mr. Jenkinson, the head of the Criminal Investigation Department of Ireland, Captain Shack, R.M., Mr. Harrel, Chief Commissioner of Police, Mr. Hamilton, Under Secretary for Ireland, etc. Mr. Murphy, Q.C., and Mr. P. O'Brien, Q.C., instructed by Mr. Bolton, Crown Solicitor, and Mr. S. Lee Anderson appeared for the prosecution on behalf of the Crown, while the prisoners were represented by Dr. Webb, Q.C., Mr. Richard Adams, and Mr. J. O. Byrne (for Timothy Kelly and Edward McCaffrey), Mr. P. Keogh representing Patrick Whelan. At half-past twelve Joseph Brady, Timothy Kelly, Michael Pegan, John Dwyer, and Joseph Hanlon were brought into the dock, and they were charged with having attempted to murder Daniel Field, on the 27th November. The other prisoners would not yet be brought forward, though the

evidence might refer to them. The charge was then entered as follows:—"That the Prisoner did conspire with others to murder certain public officials and others, and in pursuance of said conspiracy, on the 27th November, 1882, feloniously wound one Denis J. Field, with intent to murder him." Alice Carroll, a girl aged 16 years, residing at 13, Lower Eccles-street, deposed that she recollected the 27th of November. I left my father's place at ten past six o'clock. I went to No. 13, Eccles-street, and from that I came back to Wren's Public-house, Dorset-street. When I came out I had a 25 note. I then came to Hardwick-street, where I saw an outside car with three passengers and a driver. When I saw it first the car was in motion, and was going fast. It pulled up at the end of Hardwick-street. I saw three persons get out of the car. I knew two of them, but not their names. The examination was proceeding when this report left.

The Dublin correspondent of the Boston Herald, telegraphed on Friday night that new arrests are contemplated. Fitzpatrick, who was employed as secretary to the Prisoner Mullett, is, he believes, in custody as an informer. There is a Fenian edict against Fitzpatrick's life on suspicion of having betrayed secrets of the Land League. The Boston Herald's correspondent says the former Farrell will be asked in cross-examination if he was present at the Tighe-street murder, and then if it was he who carried the body of Andrews, who was there assassinated, into the street below. Before it was deposited on the sidewalk. The correspondent is assured it was the informer who performed this office. A person familiar with Delaney, the man who is supposed to be an informer, and who was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for attempting to shoot Judge Lawson, declares positively he has seen him in the street during the past week, having his hair dyed and otherwise disguised. He heard the Governor's wife put in her yard, and identify Brady, the man who stabbed Mr. Field. It is also stated that an attempt will be made to identify the most prominent Prisoner as the man who twice put his head in at the window of Lord F. Cavendish's carriage, and asked which of those occupants was the Chief Secretary. The man was to come out at to-day's sitting, as Farrell's examination by Mr. Adams, who has been finally engaged for the defence, will be very exhaustive. Several of the Prisoners have offered information, and have been refused, not being believed. The closest possible watch is kept on the Prisoners. One other attempt to murder Mr. Forster has been described to the correspondent by a well-posted informant, who states that Mr. Forster was driving home at midnight. His carriage went along the banks of the Liffey, where he was followed by a man in a dark coat and a top hat. One idle vessel contained a sentinel whose duty it was on seeing a certain light further down the river to pass it on, and indicate the coming carriage. Just as the match ignited a gust of wind blew out, and the vehicle rushed by. This makes four separate alleged attempts on Mr. Forster's life.

The Freeman's Journal of Saturday contains the following:—"The Detective Department is still keenly on the track, and the trial of the prisoners is being hurried on. Interrogating and watching those whom they suspect has been their daily hourly task, and on Wednesday morning they 'picked up' a cabman with a white horse whom, it would seem, they suspected of being a detective. The cabman was requisitioned on the occasion of the attempt to assassinate the ex-Secretary, Mr. Forster, and alluded to in part of Robert Farrell's evidence. The driver is James Fitzharris, whose cab, drawn by a white horse, is owned by James Fitzharris, the driver of the cab being twice twelve. Fitzharris has been no fewer than six times wanted and found since the Park murders, and he has been four or five times in what he terms the 'Star Chamber' of the Castle. Few cabmen are better known in the city than the driver of the cab, who resides in the cottage of 'Skin the Goat,' off Lime-street. For many years he has been a licensed driver, and his hazard is on Merrion-square, at the top of Holles-street, where he has a house. He was arrested by Detective-officer Pitman arrested 'Skin the Goat,' and at once drove him to the Lower Castle Yard, where Mr. Mallins, Chief of the Detective Department, entered the cab with the sub-officer, and directed Fitzharris to drive to the County Prison, where the cab was driven through the entrance into a courtyard, where at the time stood another cab in charge of a boy (unknown to Fitzharris), and an outside car driven by a lad named Ned. The boy was the same as the one who was driven by Mike Kavanagh, who was mentioned in Robert Farrell's testimony as having driven to Frederick-street on the night of the attempted murder on Mr. Field. The other persons named in the evidence were the sub-officers, Alice Carroll, and a little boy, both said to be material witnesses. In a few minutes after Fitzharris had entered the courtyard, the informer Farrell emerged from the prison, and at once proceeded to have a really good talk with him. He was accompanied in this by a tall, good-looking, fresh young fellow, whom Fitzharris did not know. Under the second cab in the yard Fitzharris states that he recognised an old hollownecked man, who was placed on the driver's seat, beside Fitzharris, and the latter was told to drive round the yard. This he did several times, but Farrell, he says, seemed not to have ever seen him before. Alice Carroll described as 'shutty eyes,' also had an extra good look at the cab-driver during his rotations round the prescribed courtyard. This over, without any apparent result, Mike Kavanagh (arrested last Thursday week), was brought out of the prison car formerly driven by him. He, too, was directed to drive round the yard, which he did several times, Farrell, Mike Carroll, and the 'shutty eye' boy all attentively engaged in watching him. A conference took place between the detectives and the witnesses after which Miss Carroll and Mr. Mallins and Pitman got into a cab and directed him to drive to the Lower Castle-yard. From this Mr. Mallins drove him to Mountjoy Male Prison, North Circular-road, where he was placed in a cell. He has been left standing for close upon two hours. He states he has reason to believe that Pat Delaney, convicted for the attempt on Mr. Justice Lawson, had a peep at him through the window. During the time he was there Mr. S. L. Anderson, the Crown Solicitor, drove up in a carriage, guarded by policemen, and entered the goal. Mr. Anderson came and got into the 'mouts' cab and drove to his residence in Upper Bagin-street. Questioned by our representative as to his compulsory visit to the Castle, he said:—"When I was taken once to the Castle," said Fitzharris, the first question I was asked was: 'Did I ever drive James Casey to Brunswick-street?' I said, 'No.' Next I was asked, 'Did I ever drive a man named Runkle?' and said, 'I never did.' I was next asked, 'Did I know James Mullett?' and I said, 'No, but that I might have dropped into his place in Dorset-street for a drop of porter when I had been in his locality.' 'Do you know John Dwyer?' I replied that, 'If I met a collision in the street I might know what it was.' Fitzharris explains that at one time he was ushered into the 'Star Chamber' by a detective officer, with the remark to Mr. Curran, 'This is the

man we suspect drove the cab with the white horse.' Fitzharris is a married man with three or four little children, and towards him, as with many of his class, the world does not seem to have acted kindly.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, FRIDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by Lady Chesham, yesterday being the 25th anniversary of the marriage of the Crown Prince and Princess of Germany, her Majesty's ship *Hector*, guardship at Cowes, fired a royal salute. The Prince of Leiningen arrived at Osborne. Her Majesty's dinner party included Princess Beatrice, the Prince of Leiningen, Lady Churchill, the Dowager Marchioness of Ely, the Earl and Countess Sydney, General the Right Hon. Sir Henry and the Hon. Lady Ponsonby, the Hon. Lady Biddulph, Captain Biggs, Mr. Sahl, and the Master of the Household. The Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting had the honour of joining the Royal Circle in the Drawing Room afterwards. The band of the Royal Marines, which was to have performed in the evening, was put off on account of the recent death of Prince Charles of Prussia. Earl and Countess Sydney have left Osborne. The Hon. Evelyn Moore has succeeded the Hon. Frances Drummond as Maid of Honour in Waiting. The Hon. Ethel Cadogan has left Osborne to-day. Lady Maxse had the honour of being presented to the Queen on Wednesday.

The Princess of Wales, attended by Miss Knollys, left Marlborough House on Friday afternoon for Southampton, which was reached about six o'clock. On Thursday night Princess Christian distributed, at the Town-hall, Windsor, on Friday, the certificates to the successful students of the Windsor branch of the St. John's Ambulance Association. The Earl and Countess of Grosvenor have arrived at their residence in Grosvenor-square from Liverpool.

The marriage between Sir Roger Palmer, Bart., and Miss Millicent Hooper, daughter of the late Rev. Plummer Hooper, of Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, will, says the Post, take place this afternoon at 4 o'clock. Lady Roberts will leave Brindisi on Monday for Bombay, to join Sir Frederick Roberts in India.

CANON WILKINSON, BISHOP-DIGNATE OF TRURO, ARRIVED IN TRURO ON FRIDAY NIGHT.

Colonel Chaplin, who was injured in the recent carriage accident, was reported on Friday to be a very serious case. Dr. Walker stated that his patient was much worse, the broken ribs having penetrated the lungs. A telegram on Friday evening stated that Colonel Chaplin was better. He was taken after the accident to a keeper's house, and there he is likely to remain for some considerable time before he can be removed. Lady Castlereagh received injuries to her face, but is now progressing favourably.

Miss Nesta Williams Wynn, second daughter of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, died on Friday at Wynnstay, after only two days' illness.

THE EMPRESS EUGENIE.

The Morning Post says: Many of those in England who for reasons of sympathy and regard hold the Empress Eugénie in the highest esteem find some difficulty in comprehending the recent very serious case of Dr. Walker. It is well known that after its fall through the terribly painful episode of the loss of the Prince Imperial the Empress was treated by Prince Napoleon with unkindness and discourtesy. It is not the less an established fact that Prince Napoleon has become, by the force of circumstances, the legitimate head of the House of Bonaparte, a great section of the following of that cause broke away from him, and used the name of the Empress as one of the reasons for their conduct. The Empress has been a widow since the death of Prince Napoleon, and she has put forward in many ways in the heat of controversy, some French papers going so far as to assert that her clerical sympathies had now disposed her to espouse the side of the Legitimists. In presence of these various speculations the illustrious lady maintains a sphere of affection. The lady mainly she wishes to be seen at the head of the house of which she bears the name had been illegally imprisoned for some time, and putting aside all the justifiable resentment which she might have felt at the past conduct of the Prince, her Majesty thought it incumbent upon her to place herself beside her own kindred. This she could not effect by any letter, and she felt that she would have been a political deed. The simplest and most obvious thing was to proceed to Paris, to vindicate her own right of free passage and residence, menaced, in common with others, by the proposed laws, and above all to make it clear that she had no claims and no party, but that like other members of the family she sympathised with the chief of the House of Bonaparte. This accomplished, she returned at once—before there was time for any display of party feeling which might have been the result of her journey was one of self-sacrifice and pacification. With the quickness which characterises our neighbours this was readily understood. During her short stay she received only a very few personal friends, and amongst them the Princess Mathilde, Napoleon, with the Princess came Prince Louis, the son of Prince Napoleon. The young man's name was in itself enough to awaken recollections too cruel for the bereaved Empress to have recalled. He was her dead. Never to be divorced from them, she remains a mourner in the land which holds their ashes. She has, and can have under any circumstances, no future in France, and the one great reason which to her seems imperative for her recent journey was the desire of reconciliation at whatever cost of personal feeling. Having accomplished this, the Empress Eugénie has retired to her quiet English home. Removed from all strife, she leads a life devoted to the simplest of affections. Along with her, she has the recollections of those dearest to her, she interferes in no way with the future of France. That great country may choose one or another form of Government. The former Empress only felt that it was incumbent upon her to restore peace and goodwill to a family from which, from no fault of hers, they had too long been absent. That tranquillity may be returned to France under a stable Government, whichsoever she may choose and maintain, is certainly the prayer of one to whom all earthly ambitions are for ever forbidden.

The Burns Anniversary.—The 124th anniversary of Burns's birthday was celebrated throughout Scotland on Thursday night. The Edinburgh Burns Club had a dinner in Waterloo Hotel, Edinburgh, and the toast of the evening was "The Memory of Burns." It was proposed by the Rev. Dr. Rees, of St. Giles's Cathedral. Burns's monument in George-square, Glasgow, was profusely decorated, toasts to his memory were drunk, and his ballads were sung with enthusiasm in the streets by various clubs in that city to celebrate the occasion.

SEVERE GALE.

LOSS OF LIFE AND GREAT DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

A severe storm of wind and rain prevailed in London during Thursday night and Friday morning. The storm has been experienced over the whole kingdom, and there has been great destruction of property. At Runcorn, the premises of a builder were blown down, and other damage in that district is reported. In North Yorkshire the River Vale has overflowed its banks in the valley of Wensleydale, drowning many sheep and causing other damage. Snow has also fallen to the depth of many inches. At Ashton-under-Lyne a new house, belonging to a man named Hague, has been destroyed, the roof having been blown off and the walls levelled to the ground. At Stockport several houses and a mill-wall were blown down. Heavy rain accompanied the wind. In North Wales much damage has been done to property, portions of buildings having been blown down and others completely destroyed. Many trees have been uprooted, and a family in the Vale of Llangollen have sustained serious injuries from the fall of a chimney. The gale was so violent in Cardiff that a large plate-glass window in one of the shops was blown in, notwithstanding that it was protected by an iron revolving shutter. The heavy rain in this district has caused floods. At Bradford a portion of another chimney was blown down, but happily no one was injured. The chimney, which is a brick one, belongs to Hartley and Sugden of Halifax, and is very old. At Oldham a large coping-stone on the Belgrave Mill was blown on to the roof, through which it fell, and two girls who were working in the top room were killed, and six others were injured, some seriously. On Thursday night and Friday morning a fearful hurricane prevailed at Southport. The wind, which in the night blew violently from the west, suddenly veered round to the south, when its full force was expended in the town, inflicting great damage. Chimney-pots, fencing, walls, and trees were blown down, lead and slates being stripped off the houses. Nearly the whole of a chimney belonging to a foundry fell, breaking through the roof into the workshops below. The Winter Garden and Conservatory suffered considerably, portions of the roof being blown in, and workmen had to be called up during the night to shore up the front facing the sea. The Botanic Gardens and National School also suffered, the latter being so much injured that the children were not allowed to assemble on Friday. A fierce gale has prevailed in the Sheffield district. Two tall chimney-stacks are reported to the police as unsafe, and considerable damage has been done to the roofs of houses and barns. Cases of personal injury are reported. A severe storm of wind passed over the town of Southport on Friday night, and a large number of the General Market, the glass of which is over half an inch thick, were broken, and much other damage has been done. A large brick building at the boiler-works of Messrs. Cochrane & Co., Duke-street, Birkenhead, was blown down. Several men had narrow escapes. A severe storm raged along the east coast of Scotland on Friday. In the country districts snow lies four or five inches deep, while in high grounds it is fully half a foot in depth. The sea is running very high, and vessels have put into the Firths of Forth and Tay for shelter. During Thursday night strong winds, accompanied by rain and snow, prevailed throughout North Staffordshire and East Derbyshire. Considerable damage has been done to property. Trees have been torn up by the roots, and the top of the arch at the Uttoxeter Workhouse has been blown down. Warrington parish church suffered severely by the gale. Two of the pinnacles were blown down, and a large mass of masonry fell through the chancel-roof, making an aperture twelve feet wide and doing considerable damage.

The gale seems to have been especially severe at Liverpool. The Liverpool and New Brighton lifeboats had been out since the night to rescue the crew of a barque which had been reported off the port. Nothing was seen of the vessel by either of the lifeboats. Four of the crew of the New Brighton lifeboat were washed overboard and one of them was drowned. The state of the sea outside is described as terrific, and the steam-tug which towed out the lifeboats suffered severely. By nine o'clock on Friday morning three vessels had been driven ashore at the mouth of the river, and nothing is known as to the crews. The schooner *Dave*, of Sunderland, stranded off Yarmouth, and the crew were rescued by the Caistor lifeboat. The vessel was afterwards got off and brought into the harbour. It is believed that the *Ceres*, belonging to the Liverpool and London and North Western Railway, has been lost with all hands. She left in ballast a fortnight ago, and has not since been heard of. On Thursday evening a vessel was observed to have struck the Barmby Rock, about a mile from Barmby. The coastguard went out this morning, but could find no trace of the vessel beyond some floating wreckage. It is supposed that the vessel was a Ringsend trawler, and that she was lost with all hands. A hurricane was blowing at the time.

A terrific gale has prevailed in Ireland, and a heavy downpour of rain has been followed by snow. The English mails were several hours late on Friday morning. Floods are reported from the country, and some houses have been blown down. Telegraphic communication is seriously interrupted. The Telegraph Department gave notice on Friday that direct communication with Scotland was almost entirely interrupted, and that there was considerable delay in transmitting messages to Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, and other English offices north of those towns, and to Ireland.

Eight of the crew of the Mumbles lifeboat were drowned on Saturday morning while endeavouring to rescue the crew of the German vessel *Prinz Albert*, which struck on the rocks outside Swansea during the gale. Four of the men who were lost were brothers, and their father is badly injured. He has also lost a son-in-law. The crew of the *Prinz Albert* were all saved with the exception of the carpenter. Two other vessels have gone ashore in the neighbourhood, and the crews are reported to be safe.

In North Staffordshire and East Cheshire snow fell heavily during Friday night, and a gale was blowing on Saturday with great fury. Telegraphic communication with all parts of the district was interrupted, and railway traffic was impeded. Six men who were on their way to work along a colliery railway at Wigan were knocked down by some coal wagons which had been set in motion by the heavy wind, and all were injured, three of them seriously. One of them had to have his arm amputated, and another lost his hand. A terrific gale, accompanied by high tides, has been blowing at Portsmouth, and although comparatively little damage has been done to the shipping, house property has suffered considerably. At Southsea the sea on Saturday was washing over the embankment and inundating in sheets on to the common; while at Portsmouth large waves were dashing over Point Barracks into the street, and the parade ground was completely swamped.

An inquest was held at Liverpool on Sunday on the body of Charles Findlay, who was drowned in the disaster to the lifeboat on Friday. The captain of the lifeboat said the gale was the heaviest he had experienced during twenty-five years. When the deceased was washed overboard the boat was nearly empty. The noise of the storm was so great they could hardly hear each other speak. They hoisted sail, but it was carried away. Nothing could be seen of the deceased. A verdict of Accidental death was returned.

Snow was falling over North Wales on Saturday. The gale abated somewhat on

Friday, but recommenced in the evening with great violence, accompanied by dense showers of snow. Many houses have been destroyed. The sea is exceedingly rough. From all parts of South Wales have come reports of heavy storms. The Rhyney Valley has been flooded, and all the local mountain streams are running high, overflowing their banks in many places. In Bute-street, Cardiff, a portion of a roof was blown off and into the window of a place opposite; and at Penarth a house was blown down, without, however, causing any loss of life.

At Thurles, County Tipperary, the theatre, a wooden building with a canvas roof, was blown to the ground just as the play was being commenced before an audience of about two hundred persons. Several persons were seriously injured.

In consequence of the gale on Friday nearly all the water had been blown out of the Thames at noon, and the boats belonging to the London Steamship Company were unable to pass under Vauxhall Bridge. A great number of "mudlarks" and others were to be seen on the foreshore of the Thames searching for articles left on the shore by the receding tide. Friday's tide was, it was stated, the lowest that had been known for a great number of years.

SPEECHES BY PUBLIC MEN.

Mr. Chamberlain, M.P., was entertained at the annual banquet of the Birmingham Law Society, on Friday night. Sir Farre Harcourt, Solicitor-General, presided. Mr. Chamberlain, in proposing the toast of the Bench and the Bar, said:—"The Bench covers, and is no doubt intended to cover, a very wide field. It includes the whole of the hierarchy of judicial administration, from the august assembly of the House of Lords, sitting in its gilded chamber, as the highest court of appeal, down to the last and the least of those unpaid and comparatively unlearned magistrates in whose petty sessions throughout the country manage to combine a great deal of common sense with very little legal knowledge. It is the habit of some people to sneer at the justice of the peace, to talk of 'justices' justice, and I think they are apt to underestimate the nature of the services which are so freely rendered. For my own part, when I think that there are thousands of men who are engaged without any remuneration in magisterial work, when they decide every year hundreds of thousands of cases in the face of light and shade, and subject to the keen scrutiny of the free press, I confess that the few cases of unfairness and even of folly which are brought to our notice seem to be altogether exceptional, and that they ought to be taken as a proof of the general impartiality and good faith of the Bench. Speaking of the judges, he said they had reason to be gratified that by long and honourable and almost unbroken tradition the English Bench had created and maintained a confidence in the law, and in decisions which had given stability to our institutions, and promoted that security and settled order upon which the prosperity and progress of the country mainly depend. In dealing with the bar he remarked that it was the most democratic of all professions. Merit, industry, and ability were the passports—the unfailing passports—to success. Nowhere had birth, or station, or inherited advantages, less influence than it had in connection with this career.

Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P., speaking on Friday night at the annual meeting of the Manchester Liberal Association, said he did not anticipate there would be any great obstruction by the Irish party in the House of Commons during the coming session, as the party knew that the best way to prevent the passage of the Bill was to clear away the arrears of English legislation. He hoped that among other measures a Patent Bill in favour of poor inventors would be passed. Conservatives, he said, were obstructive by nature, and would be sure to oppose all beneficial legislation.

Mr. H. Broadhurst, M.P., was on Friday evening entertained at a banquet by the members of the Liverpool Junior Reform Club. Mr. Broadhurst, in reply to the toast of his health, congratulated the Liberals of Liverpool on their recent victory, and said that he especially welcomed a man who had given so much attention to the important social questions of the day as Mr. Smith had done. Referring to the disorganised condition of the Conservative party, he said it had no power to contend with the Liberals in the Turkish Empire, the clear view of the opponents of the Liberals. There was no more unsettled country in the world than Turkey, and it could only be equalled by the condition of their political opponents. Speaking of the House of Lords, he said he was not, however, in view of the Conservative policy, that these rules would meet the necessities of the case; but, at the same time, the Liberals had done well to strengthen the hands of their party in Parliament.

THE LOSS OF THE "CIMBRIA."

A Hull correspondent states that the master and officers of the Wilson liner *Argo*, which has arrived at Hull from Bremen, state that the night before the *Sultan-Cimbria* collision they passed between the *Argo* and Mordeny, a large mail steamer. They were then bound from London to Bremen, and the course would be just opposite to that of the *Cimbria*. The weather was foggy, the *Argo* was going "dead slow," and the fog signal was constantly going. The *Argo* was a steamship, and the *Cimbria* was a sailing ship. The collision took place at about midnight, and the *Argo* was struck on the starboard side. The *Cimbria* was a large mail steamer, and was bound from London to Bremen. The collision took place at about midnight, and the *Argo* was struck on the starboard side. The *Cimbria* was a sailing ship, and the *Argo* was a steamship. The collision took place at about midnight, and the *Argo* was struck on the starboard side. 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Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 29—30, 1883.

MR. BRADLAUGH'S DEMONSTRATION.

The Liberal party is not fortunate in having Mr. Bradlaugh on its back. We all wish that Mr. Gladstone could be welcomed on his return North by something more agreeable than this unsavoury memento of Ministerial defeat. It is one of the infelicitous oddities of politics that a Prime Minister whose personal zeal for Religion and the Church has marked him out all his life from the mass of ordinary English politicians should be confronted with the necessity of taking up the cause of a man whose opinions and methods of controversy must inspire in him personal aversion and disgust. For this he has to face that defeat in the lobbies which he has never incurred on any other public question since he took office; the Liberals, docile on all points else, break out into flat rebellion when Mr. Bradlaugh is seen clinging to the coat-tails of the party, endeavouring thus to contrive an entrance to the House. If, however, we believe the announcements in the newspapers, the Member for Northampton has transferred the fight from inside the Palace of Westminster to outside. No more will be the struggle in a narrow doorway with the messengers of the House. Never again will the long corridors and many steps of the Gothic building witness the precipitate procession of a dishevelled legislator in the hands of polite but pushing policemen. Freescored Barons and orators in marble will no longer be affronted with a scene almost unparalleled even in Plantagenet or Tudor reigns. In revenge, however, as we understand, for the decorous but decisive urgency of Inspector Denning, the Member for Northampton, taking a leaf out of the book of his French friends, is about to "descend into the streets." He tells us that he has addressed two hundred public meetings since he was expelled, and that deputations from all parts of England are about to visit London on the 15th of February to make a Bradlaugh "demonstration" in the Metropolis. Party operatives from Lancashire, ironworkers from Staffordshire, craftsmen of all kinds from Birmingham, miners from far Northumberland, toilers from what Macaulay called "Mendip's sunless caves," hardy fishermen from the southern and eastern coasts, will wend their way to Trafalgar-square to show their love for Mr. Bradlaugh and his cause, and their hatred of his enemies. When there, they will "demonstrate." Londoners who are languid about political issues will learn a lesson from these stern invaders from the North; the Goths again will overawe Rome. In 1832 we were threatened with a similar "march of the men of Birmingham;" but the King gave way, and the Metropolis was spared. Public meetings and even large processions are—if not too frequent—the breath of our political life. But is this kind of thing a necessary preliminary to the renewed discussion of Mr. Bradlaugh's often-repeated claim? Hitherto the English Parliament has been free from anything like mob pressure. In France, more than once the seat of legislation has been stormed by a crowd, which thereupon deposed a dynasty, and by shouts made new rulers out of any "gentlemen of the pavement" who might be popular or at hand. It was so in February, 1848, and again in September, 1870; while on other occasions the trick has been attempted and failed. For this reason alone the Conservatives in 1873 made Versailles the meeting-place of the Senate and the Chamber, and forbade removal except by a revision of the Constitution. In America, the authorities, conscious of so great a danger, avoid assembling their legislative bodies in large centres of population. The men of the Revolution invented Washington in order to avoid fixing the capital at Boston, Philadelphia, or New York, and the State Legislatures, shunning great towns, cities, almost invariably meet in small In England we never have had need of such precautions. London is the largest city in the world, with the greatest contrasts between enormous wealth and grinding misery; but it is eminently patient and peaceful. It has no fierce mob, though it has plenty of ragamuffins who, if bolder men led the way, would take advantage of disorder to plunder and to destroy. We must, therefore, condemn as wholly wanton and improper the importation into the Metropolis of rough men from the country merely in order that they may bring on Parliament the presence, not to say pressure, of a physical demonstration. An old Act forbids any public meeting within a mile of the legislative Palace while Parliament is sitting. Even a procession of more than ten to present a petition is prohibited, as the Chartists on the 40th of April, 1848, found to their discomfort. Mr. Bradlaugh, however, who carries into his agitation a rather pettifogging spirit, has hit upon a plan, it is said, for evading the spirit of the Act. The great meeting of miners, navvies, and brassy ironworkers will be held at Trafalgar-square before the Queen's Speech is read, and then will trickle down by twos and threes to Palace-yard, arriving there by circuitous routes. Can the police, it is asked, stop these persons carefully disguised as innocent citizens? A foretaste of the answer likely to be made to this impudent invasion of the statute has already been given. Mr. Bradlaugh and his followers are like John Gilpin; though on rowdy "pleasure they are bent, they have a frugal mind."

They applied to the railway companies to run excursion trains to London on this eventful 15th of February, in order that the demonstrators might start early, together, and at reduced rates. Now railway companies have no politics, and they will provide an excursion train to suit anybody. One day their carriages convey Conservative working men to a picnic; the next they impartially carry Liberals crowding to hear Mr. Gladstone. Temperance meetings and licensed victuallers' gatherings, and even, it used to be whispered, prize-fighters, are equally fish for their net. "What will they pay?" has been the only question. But they draw the line somewhere, and apparently at mobs. They have unanimously refused to start excursion trains in order to bring up country roughs to intimidate Parliament, so that Mr. Bradlaugh and his merry men will either have to travel by the usual trains, paying ordinary fares, or forego their invasion. He can fall back on the comparatively limp London rough, who is more an adept at breaking windows or picking pockets than at facing the police. Should, however, this refusal not disorganise the demonstration, Sir William Harcourt, who, as Home Secretary, is responsible for the peace of the Metropolis, is, we are sure, quite prepared to avert insult from the Legislature, and to keep Mr. Bradlaugh in order. We only hope that Mr. Gladstone will prolong his needed holiday by some extra days, and not return until this ugly stumbling-block on the threshold of every session is again effectually removed.—Daily Telegraph.

THE NEW CONSERVATIVE CLUB.

Now that the new Constitutional Club is fairly before the public, it may be useful to discuss its objects, and to consider how they will best be attained. The former have already been described, and may be summed up by saying that it is hoped, by means of this Institution, to bring all classes of Conservatives into closer communication with each other, and to provide a common centre where they can all meet together. The design is highly to be commended, and we heartily hope it may succeed. We believe that the Reform Club was established by the Liberal Party with much the same object, and, in spite of some rumours to the contrary which have from time to time become audible, we should imagine that its original purpose has not been altogether unfulfilled. The Conservative Leaders, however, may learn a lesson from what occurred only very recently in the Liberal Pall-mall Institution—that it will not answer their purpose to give only a mechanical support to a Club of this character—to pay their subscriptions, and recommend it to their friends and never to go near it themselves. If they do this, they had better have had nothing to do with the new Club at all, since the object of it is to enable both Leaders and followers, and every grade and section of the Party, to meet together on an equal footing. If there is any truth at all in the complaint of the "Two Conservatives," that the Chiefs of the Conservative Party are not sufficiently affable and accessible, this Club should be the answer to it; it ought to be, even more than the Reform Club, a medium of communication between the different sections of the Party. The terms of admission are comparatively low, though, as a correspondent points out, not sufficiently low to make membership widely comprehensive. The number of members is to be five thousand, and a room is to be specially provided for the accommodation of political meetings. Properly developed, a Club of this description should be extremely useful as a branch of Conservative organisation. But the promoters must be thoroughly in earnest, and fully comprehend the necessity of making the social character of the Club a reality and not a sham. If "all Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and officers of Constitutional Associations" could be sure, when they come to London in the season, of often meeting the Conservative Whips, and of sometimes meeting the Conservative Chiefs, in the Club smoking room, and of exchanging information on subjects of interest to the Party, the most valuable results might be expected. It is, frequently, we believe, owing to want of information on local topics, and on the state of local feeling in general, that Party Leaders make mistakes which they only discover to be such when it is too late; whilst it is quite certain that if country supporters and country newspapers were kept better informed than they are of the policy and intentions of the Leaders, misunderstandings might be averted which, as it is, produce serious inconvenience. But this better understanding will never be permanently established unless Conservative members of Parliament who are in the confidence of the Front Bench shall seriously devote themselves to the creation of it, and make the Club a really working institution. Every encouragement should be held out to the members of the Constitutional Club; and we think it is an omission that ought to be remedied without delay that the Editors of Conservative local papers are not included, with the officers of Conservative Associations, among those who are eligible for admission on specially favourable terms.—Standard.

MISSING HEIRS.

Damp doorsteps, thanks to a remark of Mrs. Gamp's, are connected in the popular mind rather with pulmonary affections and "settling on one's lungs" than with sudden oulence. But, according to a Dublin telegram, doorsteps (whether damp or not) are inseparably connected with the fortunes of a missing heiress. A lady, the successor to vast wealth, has disappeared, has been unheard of since childhood's hour, when her parents left her on a doorstep. Children are sometimes unpoetically poken of as "encumbrances," and persons who desire the post of gardener or housekeeper often advertise that they are "without encumbrances." Now a doorstep is not a bad place whereon to temporarily deposit an encumbrance; but when the encumbrance is a child, there is a singular heartlessness in leaving it thus at the gates of a friend, still more of a stranger. People who act thus must have been demoralised by the drama, depraved by the pantomime. That chartered libertine the Clown often leaves a property baby at the steps of a practicable door, and when Pantaloon comes out and trips over the infant, the accident never fails to win the laughter of the young and thoughtless. But conduct which is professional in a Clown is unnatural in parents, especially when the

infant of whom they thus disembarass themselves is heiress of much property. An heiress, to be identified by the fact that she was once deposited on a doorstep, is being sought for in Ireland. According to the latest reports, a Miss Carey, at present engaged in domestic service, at perhaps the long-sought-for maiden. "It seems there is no doubt she was a child left on a doorstep by her parents." So far so good, but there must be some other marks of identity surely, or the claimant's chance of success seems but small. Many children are left on doorsteps. Doorsteps are to the modern what Cithæron was to the ancient world—a place where "rubbish" or children regarded as inconvenient might be "shot." The peculiarity of this Irish case is the insistence on the doorstep, without which no missing heiress is genuine. The public will wait with interest for the close of this romance, and for explanation of the motives of the parents. If Miss Carey, or any other claimant, succeeds in proving her case, romance will become a more real thing than ever to young women engaged in domestic service. Persons of culture are apt to speak harshly of "penny dreadfuls," as they call the novels which appear in cheap weekly journals. But these works, though we could wish them a better style undoubtedly as to the happiness of the poor, by teaching them that something may "turn up" at any moment. The belief in some vague inheritance always about to fall in is one which gilds the melancholy hours of many fanciful persons. The statistics of people in America who believe themselves the true heirs of English estates and titles would be interesting, if they could be obtained. This popular notion forms part of the plot of Hawthorne's posthumous and fragmentary romance recently published. Probably most persons who in England succeed to estates know what it is to receive letters on the subject from American claimants. Certainly that experience is not unusual. The detection of a recent fraud showed what a good business might be done by advertising for missing heirs, and by pocketing the preliminary fees.—Daily News.

WESTMINSTER AND PETERBOROUGH.

It is a strange illustration of the adage that misfortunes never come singly, that immediately after the news of the dangerous condition of Peterborough Cathedral, we should hear a still more alarming report of Westminster Abbey.—The statement is that the exterior stonework has been found to be in such a crumbling condition, that it is necessary to reconstruct the entire fabric. Knowing what we do know of the destructive influence of our London atmosphere upon even the hardest of stone, we need not wonder that a structure which has been exposed to its effects for so many centuries should exhibit signs of yielding at last. The fact is not, however, that the entire fabric is crumbling, but that the masonry is so rotten, that it is necessary to reconstruct the entire fabric. 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